2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

Compilation of reports

Introduction

1. In the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, which the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted by consensus on 19 May 2000, the Conference requested "all States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of such a zone and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. It requests that the Secretariat prepare a compilation of those reports in preparation for consideration of these matters at the Preparatory Committee meetings and the 2005 Review Conference". (See document NPT/CONF.2000/28, Part I, "Review of the operation of the Treaty, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference", section entitled "Article VII and the security of non-nuclear-weapon States:, paragraph 16 on "Regional issues", subparagraph 7.)

2. The present compilation has been prepared by the United Nations Secretariat in response to that request and contains the reports issued by 6 May 2005.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

Compilation of reports

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I. Introduction

1. In the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, which the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted by consensus on 19 May 2000, the Conference requested "all States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of such a zone and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. It requests that the Secretariat prepare a compilation of those reports in preparation for consideration of these matters at the Preparatory Committee meetings and the 2005 Review Conference". (See document NPT/CONF.2000/28, Part I, "Review of the operation of the Treaty, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference", section entitled "Article VII and the security of non-nuclear-weapon States:, paragraph 16 on "Regional issues", subparagraph 7.)

2. The present compilation has been prepared by the United Nations Secretariat in response to that request. Reports have been received thus far from Algeria, Australia, Egypt and Jordan. Any additional information received will be issued as addenda to the present document.

II. Reports received from States parties

Algeria

[Original: French]
[1 April 2002]

1. Algeria believes that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone is an effective part of the consolidation of regional peace and security and contributes to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and the achievement of the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

2. However, because of the proximity and close ties between Africa and the Middle East, Algeria remains deeply concerned about the lack of progress in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this sensitive region. It therefore believes that it is essential to take concrete measures to implement the provisions of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East submitted by the three depositary States of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. It recalls, in this respect, that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference reaffirms the importance of this resolution and recognizes that it remains valid until the goals and objectives are achieved.

3. Algeria also endorses the position expressed by the States parties at the 2000 Review Conference calling upon Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and place its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards in order to realize the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East region and achieve the legitimate aspiration to the establishment of a non-nuclear zone.

4. Choosing to promote the development of research in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Algeria acceded and committed itself to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and, in March 1996, concluded an agreement on comprehensive safeguards by virtue of which all its nuclear activities are placed under its control in accordance with article II of the Treaty.

5. Algeria has always worked in support of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world; it endorses the Declaration of the Organization of African Unity on the Denuclearization of Africa and was the third African State to ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty). Similarly, Algeria supported the establishment of such zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, in the South Pacific and in South-East Asia by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Bangkok, which have considerably reduced the risks of nuclear proliferation and contributed to the strengthening of international peace and security, and welcomed the efforts undertaken to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

6. Within the Arab Group, it sponsors the resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" submitted each year to the General Assembly, and supports the resolution entitled "Establishment of a

nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East"; similarly, it participated actively in the work of the working group on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones at the substantive session of the Disarmament Commission in April 1999.

Australia

[Original: English]
[26 March 2002]

1. Australia fully supports the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Australia has joined the consensus every year at the General Assembly in support of the resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East freely arrived at among the States of the region.

2. While countries of the Middle East would need to take the initiative in developing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, membership of and adherence to existing treaties and instruments would be a step towards this aim. Australia contributes to the goal of such a zone through its efforts to achieve universal membership of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and our active support for the draft International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

3. Australia is active in efforts to achieve universal application of nuclear safeguards measures in the Middle East and elsewhere. Australia also calls upon all parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to comply fully with the requirements of the Treaty.

Egypt

[Original: Arabic]
[19 March 2002]

In accordance with the request made in the Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2000, to States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the chairpersons of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has the honour to submit this report, which sets forth a number of the steps that Egypt has taken for the achievement of such a zone.

General

The issue of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has high priority in Egyptian policy, particularly since all the States of the Middle East region, without exception, have become parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, leaving Israel as the only State in the region that has not yet acceded to the Treaty or placed its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

This imbalance, particularly in a region like the Middle East that is beset by manifest political tensions, led the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to adopt in 1995 a resolution on the Middle East, within the framework of the majority agreement on the extension of the Treaty and co-sponsored by the depositary States, namely the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. The resolution contains clear and unambiguous statements affirming the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the role of the international community in the matter. This affirmation by the Conference is contained in operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the Resolution, as follows:

> "*Reaffirms* the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty, and calls upon all States of Middle East that have not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards";
>
> "*Calls upon* all States in the Middle East to take practical steps in appropriate forums aimed

at making progress towards, inter alia, the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems, and to refrain from taking any measures that preclude the achievement of this objective";

"*Calls upon* all States party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment by regional parties of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems".

The United Nations Secretariat prepared a report as a document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2000/7), which mentioned that, since 1995, numerous States of the region had acceded to the Treaty and that thus all States of the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, were States parties to the Treaty.

This situation prompted the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, at the Sixth Review Conference in 2000, to reaffirm the importance of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and to recognize that the resolution remained valid until the goals and objectives were achieved and that the resolution was an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995. Consequently, this resolution must be regarded as equivalent as regards its importance and its binding nature to the decision for the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

The Secretariat document also mentioned that all States of the region of the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, were States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and reaffirmed the importance of Israel's accession to the non-proliferation Treaty and the placing of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards with a view to achieving the goal of arriving at universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.

In the light of this high priority that Egypt accords to the issue of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, with a view to ridding the region of the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, believing in the importance of the international community's taking clear-cut steps to promote the achievement of such a zone, and with a view to the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, Egypt has, for years, maintained a firm stand and steadfast policy with regard to the establishment of such a zone, which would eliminate nuclear weapons, enhance the security of all States of the region and contribute to the speedy attainment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. Egyptian efforts in this matter have been concentrated at the national, regional and international levels, as follows.

I. Egyptian efforts and steps at the national level

- Egypt's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), which clearly affirms Egypt's rejection of the nuclear option, which represents a clear threat to humanity and to peace and security in the Middle East;
- Egypt's hosting of the ceremonies for the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty on 11 April 1996, as an expression of Egypt's commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons not only from the Middle East but from the African continent as a whole; Egypt's hosting of the ceremonies for the signature of the Pelindaba Treaty represents the culmination of the follow-up to the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in July 1964 in Cairo;
- Egypt's conclusion of an agreement on comprehensive safeguards with IAEA and its placing of its two research reactors and its other nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

II. Egyptian efforts and steps at the regional level

- The accession of Egypt and all States of the Middle East to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the placing of their nuclear facilities under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards system, with the exception of Israel;
- Egypt's participation in the preparation of a draft treaty to make the region of the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, first and foremost nuclear weapons, within the framework of the League of Arab States;
- Establishment of a working group on arms control and regional security (ACRS), which emerged from the Madrid peace process on the basis of a proposal by Egypt, and a call for the inclusion on its agenda of an item on the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

III. Egyptian efforts and steps at the international level

- The announcement by President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak in April 1990 of his initiative calling for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems from the region of the Middle East; His Excellency's announcement of his second initiative, in 1998, calling for the convening of an international conference to consider ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction, first and foremost nuclear weapons;
- Egypt's submission annually, since 1974, of a resolution to the General Assembly of the United Nations concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East; this resolution has been adopted by consensus since 1980, up to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly;
- Egypt's submission annually of a resolution to the General Assembly of the United Nations concerning the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and calling upon Israel, as the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accede to the Treaty without further delay; the resolution has been adopted annually by an overwhelming majority up to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly;
- Egypt's submission annually, within the framework of the IAEA General Conference, of a resolution concerning the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East; the resolution has been adopted annually by consensus, up to the forty-fifth session of the General Conference;
- Egypt's ongoing and persistent efforts, within the framework of the activities of the Disarmament Commission, to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East; these efforts resulted in the adoption by the Disarmament Commission, at its substantive session in April 1999 (under the chairmanship of Egypt), of guidelines for establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and encouraging the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

Conclusion

Egypt will continue to follow up its efforts to achieve the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as soon as possible, as a major step towards eliminating all weapons of mass destruction from the region. With a view to the realization of this goal, it will follow up its initiative concerning the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and will continue its efforts to obtain the support of the international community in establishing such a zone and averting the threat to humanity presented by nuclear weapons, inasmuch as they are the most dangerous, destructive and genocidal of all weapons of mass destruction.

In this context, Egypt considers it necessary that all parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, shoulder their responsibilities and make all sincere efforts to realize all the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and to implement the relevant portions of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. It may be appropriate to begin thinking as of now of setting up a mechanism, with a specific mandate, entrusted by the Review Conference with the

task of following up the implementation of this resolution, and the recommendations made concerning it at the 2000 Review Conference, as proof of the seriousness of States' approach to and commitment to the implementation of the decisions of the Review Conference. Here emerges the special role that devolves upon the three depositary States, which are the same States that co-sponsored the resolution on the Middle East, in the implementation of this resolution. We should like to know the steps they have taken for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[25 March 2002]

This report is submitted within the framework of the request contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that all States parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States should report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the chairpersons of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has also signed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) comprehensive safeguards agreement and the IAEA additional protocol on safeguards.

1. This serious and committed position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reflects full conviction of and absolute adherence to rejection of the nuclear option, particularly in the Middle East, as well as clear-cut obligations to and participation in promoting the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

2. The Jordanian Government is participating in efforts to elaborate a draft treaty making the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction, first and foremost nuclear weapons, within the framework of the League of Arab States.

3. The Jordanian Government participates in the working group on arms control and Regional Security established by the Madrid Peace Conference and attaches importance to the inclusion on its agenda of an item concerning the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

4. The delegation of Jordan, together with other Arab delegations, annually introduces an item on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East in the United Nations General Assembly. The relevant resolution has, year after year, been adopted by an increasing majority, up to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

5. The delegation of Jordan and the delegations of the other Arab States participate, within the framework of the meetings of the IAEA General Conference, in the introduction of a resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, which is annually adopted by consensus.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan stresses the need to implement the provisions of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the importance of the five nuclear-weapon States' reporting on the efforts that they have made for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

The Middle East is a region beset by manifest tension, and the attention of the international community should be focused on laying the essential groundwork for the elimination of this tension, particularly with regard to the nuclear problem, in view of the fact that there is one State in the region, namely, Israel, that continues to possess nuclear capabilities and does not place its facilities under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards system and that this stands in the way of the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, especially as all States of the Middle East have acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution in the Middle East

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Reports received from States parties

Canada

[Original: English]
[4 April 2002]

1. As noted elsewhere, at the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Canada supported the First Committee resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. While Israel maintains a policy of nuclear ambiguity, it is widely assumed to have developed a significant nuclear weapons capability. Canada has stated that it is convinced that this programme is not in the long-term interests of Israel, of regional stability and of global security. Canada has called upon Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

2. Canada has also called for full adherence and compliance with the Treaty by States parties in the region, and notes that seven States in the region have not concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Canada has also called upon Iraq to provide immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to inspection teams of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC). In this regard, Canada hosted a five-week training course in May-June 2001 for inspectors attached to UNMOVIC.

3. Canada is a strong supporter of the Middle East peace process and plays a role in the multilateral aspect of this process as Chair of the Refugee Working Group. Canada has endorsed the Mitchell report and Tenet workplan as the path to ending violence and beginning negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians and has called upon both parties to follow the recommendations set out therein.

China

[Original: Chinese]
[7 April 2002]

China has always attached great importance to the promotion of the Middle East peace process and has actively supported the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Pursuant to the provisions of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the steps taken by China to promote the Middle East peace process and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East are as follows:

1. Actively encouraging the parties concerned to promote the Middle East peace process in the spirit of reconciliation

As far as the Middle East problem is concerned, China has always taken the position of upholding justice, not seeking self-interest and basing its judgement on the rights and wrongs of the case. Proceeding from an impartial stand, China has always adopted a policy of promoting peace, and maintained that the Middle East problem should be solved in the spirit of reconciliation. During his telephone

conversation on the Middle East problem with President Mubarak in September 2001, President Jiang Zemin emphasized that "we have been persistent promoters of peace, and we believe the only right way to solve the Middle East problem is through peaceful negotiation".

In this spirit, China has always been concerned with developments in the Middle East, truly hoped that progress can be achieved in the peace process, and been unwilling to see the results attained in the peace talks during the past 10 years come to naught. China is gravely concerned and alarmed by the heavy casualties inflicted by the continuous violence and conflicts between the Israelis and the Palestinians. China is opposed to any terrorist activities aimed at civilian populations, and supports all efforts that are conducive to relaxing tension in the region. China calls on both sides to exercise restraint and remain calm, take practical measures that will help to defuse tension, and create conditions for the early resumption of peace talks.

The core element of China's position on resolving the Middle East problem is the spirit of reconciliation. Guided by this, China has made untiring efforts to promote the resolution of the Middle East problem. The leaders of Middle Eastern countries have expressed their appreciation for the efforts made by China to settle conflicts between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and hope China can play a bigger role in relaxing tension in the region and resuming peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

II. Using different forms of bilateral contacts to promote the resolution of the Middle East problem

China has, through various forms of bilateral contacts with the parties concerned, made substantial efforts to help the parties concerned resolve the Middle East problem peacefully. These efforts are outlined as follows:

(1) Mediating the peace process during bilateral summit meetings with the Arabs and Israelis

Bilateral visits between China and Middle Eastern countries have been very frequent. President Arafat has visited China 14 times, President Mubarak 6 times, the new king of Jordan visited China twice after he assumed the throne, and the leaders of Israel have visited China many times. Chinese leaders have also visited the Middle East many times. In April 2000, Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited Palestine, Israel and Egypt.

China has always attached great importance to taking a mediating role during bilateral summit meetings with the parties concerned. When the Middle East peace process was making progress, China expressed its appreciation of the efforts made by the parties concerned, and encouraged them to continue the process so as to further its scope and depth. Following the abrupt increase in tension in the Middle East in September 2000, China continuously advised the parties concerned that the use of force and confrontation would only deepen mutual hatred and opposition, while dialog and negotiation were the right way to resolve disputes. China called on both sides to exercise restraint, actively cooperate with the mediating efforts of the international community, cease the present conflict and resume peace negotiations. During the meetings of President Jiang Zemin with Jordanian King Abdallah II and Egyptian President Mubarak in January 2000, the discussion focused on the Middle

East question, explored various options for the restoration of peace in the Middle East, and tried to promote early resolution of the Middle East problem.

(2) Striving to relax tension in the Middle East through telephone conversations and written correspondence

Whenever major negative developments have occurred in the Middle East, Chinese leaders always engage in telephone conversations with leaders in the region, urging them to exercise restraint, prevent escalation of the conflict, and maintain stability in the region. Especially since the recent deterioration of the situation in the Middle East, President Jiang Zemin has conducted many telephone conversations with leaders of the Middle Eastern countries. Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan has also repeatedly made telephone calls to the Palestinian and Israeli leaders, explaining to them the views of China on the current situation in the Middle East, expressing deep concern regarding the continued deterioration of security in the region, calling on the two sides to exercise restraint and take effective measures to prevent further deterioration of the situation, and create conditions conducive to the early resumption of peace talks. Chinese leaders have also made use of their correspondence with leaders of the Middle East to explain the position of China and to mediate between the parties concerned.

(3) Calling for a peaceful resolution of the Middle East problem by making clear the Chinese Government position through such means as statements by official spokesmen

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has been closely following developments in the Middle East situation, and it has made clear the position of the Chinese Government on the current Middle East situation through statements made by its spokesman at appropriate times. It has called for all the parties to renounce military means and to seek a negotiated solution of the Middle East issue. Moreover, on the occasions of the bilateral contacts with non-Middle East countries, China has tried to talk with the countries concerned with a view to bringing about a solution of the Middle East issue through different channels. When President Bush of the United States visited China in February 2002, the Chinese and American sides both covered Middle East issues during their bilateral talks and press conferences, in the hope that the relevant big Powers could create a favourable atmosphere for an early and peaceful resolution of the Middle East issue.

III. Under the auspices of the United Nations, seeking to solve the violent conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians and facilitate the Middle East peace process

China has consistently advocated and supported an active role for the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, in resolving the Middle East issue, and the fulfilment of their mandates under the Charter of the United Nations in quelling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and maintaining the peace and security of the Middle East region. China holds that a negotiated political solution of the Israeli-Palestinian issues through peaceful means should be achieved in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the principle of "land for peace" established during the Madrid conference. Moreover, the effective implementation of the agreements by the parties concerned and the understandings among them is a key precondition for building mutual confidence and stabilizing the situation so as to move towards a lasting peace.

The Chinese Government has made its own efforts to promote the Middle East peace process and put an end to the Israeli-Palestinian violent conflict. China has actively supported, joined in the consensus on or voted for the resolutions on the Middle East issue adopted by successive sessions of the General Assembly, and, during the discussion in the Security Council, the draft resolution sponsored by the group of the Non-Aligned Movement on sending United Nations military observers. China has also participated in the consultations of successive emergency special sessions of the General Assembly on the Middle East issue and voted for the relevant resolutions. China has always supported and actively participated in the efforts of the United Nations to resolve the Middle East issue. Over the years, China has continued to provide contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and has tried its best to help the Palestinian refugees. On March 12, 2002, the Security Council adopted resolution 1397 concerning the Middle East; China actively participated in adopting the resolution and voted in favour of it. China has also called on Israel to implement unconditionally Security Council resolution 1402, fully withdraw its troops from Palestinian areas and resolve the issues through peaceful means.

IV. Supporting the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

China has consistently supported the efforts by the countries in the areas concerned to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone on the basis of voluntary consultations. In the statement issued by China when it acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as early as 1992, China solemnly called on "All nuclear weapon states [to] commit themselves to supporting the proposition of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and respect the status of nuclear-weapon-free zone by assuming appropriate obligations". We maintain that Israel should accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, thus realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty by all the countries in the Middle East.

China endorses the provision of Article 7 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which states, "nothing in this Treaty affects the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories". China also supports resolution 49/71 adopted by the General Assembly in 1994 on establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and the relevant provisions concerning a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region in the "Decision on the Middle East Issue" by the NPT Review Conference in 1995. China is of the opinion that establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones is conducive to strengthening the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation. It also believes that there will be greater risks of nuclear proliferation in those areas where the situation is tense. China has always held that establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East can contribute to relaxing tensions in that region and giving impetus to resolving the Middle East issue. Therefore, China has given clear support to the proposition of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East ever since the proposition was first made.

The Security Council of the United Nations has adopted several resolutions calling for establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, which China has always supported by voting in favour of them. Meanwhile, China has also

worked at the bilateral level to actively promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. At high-level meetings between the Chinese leaders and the leaders of various countries in the Middle East, China has commended the efforts made by all countries in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region and has consistently adhered to its clear position of supporting the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone there. Together with the rest of the international community, China is ready to continue making its efforts and contributing to the achievement of peace in the Middle East and an early establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region.

Morocco

[Original: French]
[3 April 2002]

1. Morocco acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1970 and fully endorses its principles and purposes.

2. Pursuant to article III of the Treaty, Morocco concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1975, even though it has no nuclear capability.

3. Morocco was one of the first countries to call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, because it considers the existence of such a zone to be not only a necessary measure to prevent proliferation and insecurity in the region but also an international goal and a factor for building global peace and security.

4. The Kingdom of Morocco has consistently supported the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the two resolutions entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" (A/RES/39/54) and "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" (A/RES/52/41).

5. Morocco has signed the Treaty on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa (Pelindaba Treaty) and strongly supports the establishment of such zones where they do not exist.

6. Within the League of Arab States, Morocco is taking part in the development of technical and legal mechanisms for establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

7. Within IAEA, Morocco is actively promoting the application of the Agency's safeguards regime throughout the Middle East region, considering it to be an international security measure which must involve all States.

8. Morocco encourages all States in the Middle East region, including Israel, to conclude general safeguards agreements with IAEA, as an important step towards creating a climate of confidence among the States of the region and a measure preliminary to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

9. Morocco has contributed to promoting confidence-building measures between the States parties to the conflict in the Middle East, inter alia, by taking part in the

activities of the multilateral working group responsible for regional security and disarmament issues in the Middle East.

10. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region requires that the only State in the region that is not yet a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, namely Israel, should be able to accede to it and place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards regime.

11. The Kingdom of Morocco is taking sustained action at both the regional and the international level to make all States of the region aware of the need to commit themselves to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

12. The Kingdom of Morocco continues to reiterate its call to the nuclear Powers, particularly the depositaries of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the international community and the international organizations to assume their respective responsibilities with regard to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region.

Sweden

[Original: English]
[5 April 2002]

The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and application of IAEA safeguards

1. After the 2000 Review Conference, during the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, Sweden voted in favour of the resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (resolutions 55/30 and 56/21). This resolution calls upon all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

2. Sweden also voted in favour of the resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" (resolutions 55/36 and 56/27). This resolution reaffirms the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.

Security Council resolution 687 (1991), and in particular paragraph 14

3. In 1991, the Security Council set up a Special Commission to investigate the extensive Iraqi programmes on weapons of mass destruction. This task is now taken over by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) as provided for in Security Council resolution 1284 (1999). In 1999, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Dr. Hans Blix of Sweden to be the Commission's Executive Chairman.

The Conference on Disarmament

4. In February 2002, the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Anna Lindh, made a statement in the Conference on Disarmament and called upon all States remaining outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States and to place their facilities under comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

5. The Foreign Minister also stated that Iraq has not fulfilled its obligations and still refuses to allow UNMOVIC access. Ms. Lindh called upon Iraq to comply with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 1284 (1999) to allow the international community to verify that there are no weapons of mass destruction in the country. She went on to state that the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement had been developed as a reaction to the clandestine nuclear weapons programme in Iraq. It is a major accomplishment and will help build trust that all States comply with their non-proliferation commitments. Sweden has completed the ratification procedure and the Protocol will enter into force as soon as the remaining few European Union countries have ratified as planned. Ms. Lindh called upon all States to conclude additional protocol agreements with IAEA.

Middle East peace process

6. Sweden has made several efforts to promote the Middle East peace process. In spring 2000, Sweden hosted talks between the parties concerning final status issues. The results were later used in the Camp David negotiations and in the Taba negotiations. During the Swedish Presidency of the European Union in spring 2001, promoting peace in the Middle East was a priority. The Swedish Prime Minister has visited the region and the Swedish Foreign Minister has visited the region twice, in close coordination with the European Union.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[5 April 2002]

1. The United Kingdom has consistently supported resolutions in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly calling for the establishment of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone. The United Kingdom also supports the First Committee resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. In this respect we continue to call upon Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and to conclude an associated full-scope Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We have recently reiterated these messages to Israeli officials, most recently in Jerusalem last June and in London last month.

2. One of our greatest concerns in the region is Iraq's long-standing failure to comply with its United Nations disarmament and monitoring obligations and cooperate with inspectors of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and IAEA. The United Kingdom will remain at the forefront of international efforts to secure full, accurate disclosures of Iraq's illicit ballistic missile, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes. We

believe that the international community cannot afford to ignore this threat. Rigorous United Nations inspections would give the international community welcome assurance that Iraq's programmes no longer pose a threat to regional and global security.

3. The United Kingdom has also taken steps with other countries in the region to establish the conditions for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Together with our European Union partners, we have carried out extensive lobbying activity to secure adherence by States in the Middle East to key non-proliferation agreements. Since the last Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, we have lobbied States in the region on the question of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the IAEA Additional Protocol.

4. We also recognize the impact that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has on international efforts to create a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the region. The United Kingdom is committed to efforts to move the Middle East peace process forward. We are actively engaged in efforts to end the violence, build confidence and resume talks based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397 (2002) and the principle of "land for peace".

NPT/CONF.2005/PC.I/3/Add.2

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

12 April 2002
English
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New York, 8-19 April 2002

Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

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Saudi Arabia

[Original: Arabic]
[8 April 2002]

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms its strong commitment to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and expresses deep concern at Israel's obstinate refusal to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, thus effectively preventing the establishment of such a zone.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is of the view that the arrangements for the establishment the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East which are advocated by United Nations resolutions require Israel, as a State which possesses nuclear facilities and a nuclear stockpile, to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, place all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and dismantle its entire stockpile of nuclear weapons.

Israel is the only State in the Middle East which has yet to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and it must do so if the Middle East region is to become a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is of the view that the United Nations represents the appropriate framework for serious talks that will allow all the States concerned in the Middle East to take collective action for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Tunisia

[Original: French]
[10 April 2002]

1. Tunisia has always demonstrated its attachment to the principles of disarmament in general and nuclear disarmament in particular. It believes that nuclear-weapon-free zones play a major part in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contribute to the total elimination of all nuclear weapons. On the basis of this position:

- On 26 February 1970, Tunisia acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
- Tunisia signed a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 24 February 1989 and ratified it on 12 February 1990. Negotiations are under way for the signing of an additional protocol to that Agreement.
- Tunisia signed a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996.
- It has also signed the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and is gratified that the Antarctic Treaty and the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Bangkok, together with the Treaty of Pelindaba, are continuing to help rid the hemisphere and adjacent areas of the presence of nuclear weapons. In this context, Tunisia welcomes the measures taken with a view to concluding further treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.
- Tunisia is one of the sponsors of the resolution submitted annually to the General Assembly by Egypt, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.
- Tunisia supports the annual General Assembly resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.
- At the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, Tunisia played an active part in the working group on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, which adopted by consensus a report calling for, inter alia, the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

2. Considering the importance for international peace and security of stability in the region of the Middle East, Tunisia remains concerned at the lack of progress in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and in the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

That resolution is an integral part of the decision on the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

3. Despite the accession of all the countries of the region without exception to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Israel, a nuclear-weapon State, remains the only country that refuses to accede to the Treaty and unconditionally to subject all its nuclear facilities to comprehensive IAEA safeguards. The position taken by Israel is an obstacle to disarmament efforts in general and to the establishment of a lasting peace in the Middle East. It is reflected in the excessive militarization pursued by Israel, which also possesses other weapons of mass destruction.

4. It is incumbent upon all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to put their commitments into practice in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and give effect to the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Japan

[Original: English]
[15 April 2002]

1. Japan supported, and continues to fully support, the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which calls for the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems. Japan also joined, at the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the consensus adoption of resolution 56/21 of 29 November 2001, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East", which refers to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

2. The establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East will ultimately require the adherence by all States in the region to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Japan has been taking part in the international efforts to encourage the universal adherence to these multilateral legally binding instruments on the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction.

3. It is no less important that compliance with those legal instruments should be fully assured. In that regard, Japan has been exerting its efforts to promote and facilitate the conclusion and entry into force of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreements and additional protocols.

4. The adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by all States in the region would also be a substantial practical step. Japan has also been exerting its utmost efforts to promote the adherence to the Treaty by all States, especially those States whose ratifications are required for its entry into force.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic]
[9 April 2002]

1. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has long attached extreme importance to the question of the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East, inasmuch as it has been a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons since 1975 and is also a party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). Moreover, all the States of the Middle East are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, with the exception of Israel, the only country in the Middle East which has not yet acceded to the Treaty and none of whose nuclear facilities are placed under the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). As a result of this situation of imbalance in the Middle East region, which is fraught with constant political tension, the States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995 adopted a resolution on the Middle East submitted jointly by the depositary Governments of the Treaty, namely, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Resolution stressed, among other things, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the role of the international community in that regard. It also reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. It furthermore called upon all States in the Middle East to take practical steps aimed at making progress towards the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, it called upon all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment of such a zone.

2. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, given the extremely high priority it thus accords to the question of the establishment of a

nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and to contributing to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the related 1995 Resolution, has taken numerous measures towards the establishment of such a zone, aimed at the elimination of nuclear weapons from the region and at effective participation in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security in the region. Those steps are as follows:

(a) At the national level:

(i) Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1975;

(ii) Conclusion of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(iii) Signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty;

(iv) Signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 13 November 2001;

(b) At the regional level:

Participation by Libya in the discussion and drafting, within the framework of the League of Arab States, of a treaty to make the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

(c) At the international level:

- Constant reaffirmation of the extreme importance of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. This has been clearly evident at numerous related international events and conferences, including the regular and special sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations;
- Participation, since 1974, in the submission to the General Assembly of a draft resolution on the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, including at the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly;
- Participation with many Arab countries in the submission to the General Assembly of a draft resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, calling upon Israel, as the sole country in the Middle East that has not yet acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accede to that Treaty without delay;
- Yearly participation in the submission of a draft resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the region of the Middle East, within the context of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

3. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will continue its efforts towards the achievement of the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as soon as possible, as an important step towards freeing the region of all weapons of mass destruction. It hopes that all States parties to the Treaty, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, will assume their responsibilities, make every effort and exercise all possible pressure for the realization of the objectives and goals of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the full implementation of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

18 April 2002
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* Submitted on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

Reports received from States parties

France

[Original: French]

[16 April 2002]

1. France reaffirms its support for the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and for the relevant parts of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference (para. 16, subparas. 1-10, of the section on article VII of the Treaty).

2. France reiterates the importance of establishing confidence-building and security measures in the region. The tragic events in the region highlight the importance of continuing to work for the achievement of a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The aims of the peace process, which we hope to see resumed, and of a zone free from nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. In the regional context of the Middle East, a combination of the two would be particularly welcome.

3. France has spared no effort to seek to achieve those aims. We have promoted them in the framework of the political and strategic dialogue which we pursue with numerous States of the region. We appeal to all States that have not already done so to sign and ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction as well as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. We have also urged Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as part of our efforts to promote universal adherence to that instrument.

4. France voted in favour of the resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions. Together with its European Union partners, it also voted in favour of the resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

5. In addition, we have reiterated the need for strict compliance with the provisions of instruments relating to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction on the part of the States parties. We have, for example, supported the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify Iraq's compliance with its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

6. France has also continued to appeal to the States of the region that have not already done so to place all their nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards. We have encouraged the States of the region to sign and ratify additional protocols.

7. General Assembly resolution 50/66 and the relevant parts of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference rightly refer to the means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction. This is a matter of legitimate concern for the States of the region, as for all countries. France has done everything in its power, and

continues to strive, to secure universal endorsement of an international code of conduct against the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

Tunisia

[Original: Arabic]

[15 April 2002]

Arab States have taken decisive action in this regard, under the auspices of the League of Arab States. On 27 March 1994, at its 101st regular meeting of ministers, the Council of the League of Arab States adopted resolution No. 5380 providing for the establishment of a high-level technical committee of experts in international law, drawn from Member States and the secretariat, to conduct a joint Arab review of compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons after 1995 and to formulate a draft treaty on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. This subject is considered a permanent item on the Council's agenda.

Since its first meeting in 1994, the Committee has emphasized that the Non-Proliferation Treaty, its aims and universal adherence thereto, without exception, are crucial for the international disarmament regime; that security and stability in the Middle East are predicated upon complete disarmament of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction; and that the Arab position vis-à-vis the extension of the Treaty is based on the universality of that instrument.

Through the periodic and regular meetings which it holds for the purpose of drawing up a draft treaty on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and, most importantly, of nuclear weapons, the Committee has demonstrated its seriousness and willingness to help support the steps taken by the international community to promote non-proliferation and achieve peace and security at the regional and international levels. The Committee held its fifteenth meeting on 12 February 2002.

In spite of this clear and balanced Arab view and of the unified Arab position by which all Arab States have acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and comply fully with the provisions of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by both the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and, as part of an agreement providing for the indefinite extension of the Treaty, also co-sponsored by the three nuclear depositary States, Israel continues categorically to refuse to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty or even to declare its intention of doing so. It also refuses to place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards system and insists on using outmoded concepts such as the option of nuclear deterrence.

While Arab leaders have, ever since the extraordinary Arab Summit held at Cairo in June 1996, maintained that a just and comprehensive peace is a strategic option to which effect must be given in accordance with international resolutions, Israel has yet to respond to this appeal, which was renewed at the Tenth Arab Summit held at Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002. The Summit also approved the initiative presented by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

The Arab peace initiative, which the Arab leaders at Beirut adopted at a time of grave regional and international turmoil, emphasizes that lasting peace and stability in the region can only be achieved if Israel accedes to the Treaty and places all its nuclear installations under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards system. In that regard, the initiative also stresses the extreme importance of ridding the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction as a necessary and essential condition for the establishment of any future regional security arrangements.

For many years Arab States have been working and taking steps at the international level to try to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons. I should like to refer to some of these efforts as follows:

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/21 of 29 November 2001 entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East". This resolution, which was included on the General Assembly's agenda for the first time in 1974 and has been adopted by consensus every year since 1980, aims at eliminating the nuclear-weapon threat from the Middle East.

At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/27 of 29 November 2001 entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East". This resolution is proposed each year by the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of all Arab States and enjoys the support of an overwhelming majority of Member States. Inter alia, it calls upon Israel as the only State in the Middle East that has yet to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to do so without further delay and to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards with a view to realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.

At its forty-fifth session, the IAEA General Conference adopted by consensus resolution GC(45)/RES/18 of 21 September 2001 on the implementation of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, for which it won the support of all Arab States.

This broad-based support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East reflects the growing concern of the international community at Israel's defiance of repeated calls for it to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and of numerous international resolutions in that regard, including Security Council resolutions.

We should like to reaffirm those parts of the guidelines issued by the 1999 substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission that pertain to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

This situation prompted the States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to reaffirm, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, the importance of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and to recognize that the resolution would remain valid until its goals and objectives have been achieved. They also determined that the resolution was an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Review Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995. Consequently this resolution must be regarded as being equally important to and having the same binding force as the resolution providing for the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

In the light of the foregoing, the Arab States take the view that:

- The 2005 review process must undertake a comprehensive assessment of compliance by States parties, particularly nuclear-weapon States that approved the adoption of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, and implementation of the pledges which they made at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and renewed at the 2000 Review Conference;

- It is necessary to stress that the continuation of the Israeli nuclear programme outside the framework of the non-proliferation regime and Israel's refusal to accede to the Treaty or place all its nuclear installations under the IAEA safeguards system pose a direct threat to regional and international security and stability and undermine the credibility of the Treaty.

- The 2005 Review Conference must endeavour to create mechanisms for the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2000 Conference of the Parties towards that end, with a view to achieving all of its aims and purposes.

The Arab States stress that all States Parties to the Treaty, particularly nuclear States, must take decisive action to rid the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

This request is a joint position and a firm belief of all Arab States, which are determined to eliminate nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East. The Arab States will continue their efforts to realize that noble goal, thereby making a positive and important contribution to the establishment of peace in the Middle East, a region which, particularly at the present time, is fraught with tension and tragedy as a result of Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied territories in southern Lebanon.

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Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[16 April 2002]

The State of Qatar is submitting this report in response to the request made in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that States parties to the Treaty should report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings, on steps taken to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

1. The State of Qatar supports the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

2. The State of Qatar acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 3 April 1989.

3. In the framework of the League of Arab States, the State of Qatar is participating in the elaboration of a draft treaty establishing in the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, nuclear weapons.

4. The State of Qatar shares the position taken by States parties at the 2000 Review Conference urging Israel to accede to the Treaty and place its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency full-scale safeguards regime so as to achieve the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty and realize the aspiration for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/6

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

24 April 2003
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Original: French

Second session
Geneva, 28 April-9 May 2003

Report by the Kingdom of Morocco on the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

I. Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

1. The Kingdom of Morocco remains committed to general and complete disarmament and in particular to nuclear disarmament. Since its accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1970, it has constantly worked for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their non-proliferation. Morocco believes that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and a key instrument for the maintenance of peace and security in the world. It has therefore always supported initiatives aimed at strengthening the authority of this regime and promoting its universality.

2. In implementation of the Treaty, Morocco concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as of 1975 and has undertaken the domestic procedure for signing an additional protocol.

3. At the level of the General Assembly, Morocco has always supported the adoption of resolutions for the promotion of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

4. As a Contracting Party, the Kingdom of Morocco has consistently supported the decisions aimed at strengthening the review process of the Treaty.

5. The new international security situation resulting from the events of 11 September 2001 demonstrated the enormous importance of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the need to preserve its strength and credibility in order to confront the threats associated with nuclear terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Morocco believes that the strengthening of the multilateral regime of the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains a necessary measure to combat the

illicit proliferation of nuclear devices and materials and their possession by terrorists.

6. Morocco has ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials.

7. Morocco stresses the crucial importance of respect by all States Parties for the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the obligations arising from it.

8. Morocco, which supports a total ban on nuclear tests, has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It deplores the fact that this Treaty, which was opened for signature on 24 September 1996, has still not entered into force. In this respect, it reiterates its appeal to all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty without delay. It stresses the importance of respect for the moratoriums on nuclear tests and of the convening of conferences in order to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty.

9. Morocco reaffirms the inalienable right of the States Parties to the Treaty to carry out research and develop the production and utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, particularly through international cooperation under IAEA monitoring.

10. Morocco endorses action to overcome obstacles in the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and continues to support the undertaking of negotiations for the formulation of a treaty on fissile material, a legal instrument on negative security assurances and a convention on nuclear disarmament.

11. Morocco fully supports the positive conclusions of the Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 2000, and reaffirms the importance of their implementation by the States Parties, in a transparent and irreversible manner.

II. Implementation of the 1995 resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

1. The Kingdom of Morocco remains convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes to the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. For that reason, it has always supported the establishment of such zones where they did not exist.

2. Morocco was one of the first countries to call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, because it believes that the existence of such a zone is not only a necessary measure to banish proliferation and insecurity in this region, but also an international objective and a factor in the consolidation of peace and security in the world.

3. At the level of the League of Arab States, Morocco is participating in the development of a legal and technical mechanism for the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

4. Within IAEA, Morocco is engaged in promoting the application of the safeguards regime throughout the Middle East region, because it believes that this is an international security measure which should affect all States of the world.

5. Morocco encourages the conclusion by all States of the Middle East region, including Israel, of comprehensive safeguards agreements with IAEA, as an important step towards the creation of a climate of trust between the States of the region, and a preliminary measure for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

6. Morocco has helped promote confidence-building measures between the States parties to the conflict in the Middle East, particularly by participating in the work of the Multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security.

7. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East requires that the only State of the region — Israel — which is not yet a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty should accede to it and submit its nuclear installations to the IAEA safeguards regime. This concern was specifically mentioned in the decisions of the review conferences of the Non-Proliferation Treaty held in 1995 and 2000.

8. Morocco stresses the need for all the parties concerned to take concrete measures, as a matter of urgency, for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region, and pending the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly their intention to refrain, on the basis of reciprocity, from manufacturing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and not to allow the emplacement of nuclear weapons in their territories by any third party.

9. Morocco believes that appropriate security measures should be established for nuclear installations.

10. The Kingdom of Morocco is conducting sustained action, at both regional and international levels, to encourage all the States of the region to undertake the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

11. The Kingdom of Morocco constantly reiterates its appeal to the nuclear Powers, and particularly to the depositaries of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to the international community and to international organizations to rise to their responsibilities for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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STEPS TAKEN DURING THE PAST YEAR TO PROMOTE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE REALIZATION OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE 1995 RESOLUTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Report submitted by Egypt

General

Pursuant to the report submitted by Egypt to the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (document NPT/CONF.2005/PC.I/3), Egypt has the honour to submit this follow-up report, which sets forth the steps Egypt has taken during the past year to promote the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

I. Introduction

Since the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Egypt has worked continuously to realize the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

In this context, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has remained an item of high priority on Egypt's diplomatic agenda, after nearly 30 years of efforts to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and of weapons of mass destruction.

II. Egyptian efforts at the international level

As in past years, Egypt submitted a resolution (57/55) to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-seventh session on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. The resolution, which was adopted without a vote, "urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the

Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". The resolution furthermore "invites the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone ..."

Egypt, acting on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are Members of the League of Arab States, also submitted a resolution (57/97) entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East", which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of States Members. The resolution "reaffirms the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East". The resolution also calls upon Israel "to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons without further delay and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security".

On Egypt's initiative, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-sixth session, once again adopted by consensus, a resolution (GC(46)/RES/16) entitled "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East". The resolution "affirms the urgent need for all States in the Middle East to forthwith accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an important confidence-building measure among all States in the region and as a step in enhancing peace and security in the context of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ)". The resolution also "calls upon all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and appropriate steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a mutually and effectively verifiable NWFZ in the region ..." and upon all States "especially those with a special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to render all assistance to the Director-General by facilitating the implementation of this resolution".

The support of the international community for the three aforementioned resolutions is evidence of the world's continuing concern about the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and the sense of urgency surrounding this issue. Egypt regrets, however, that little has been done to translate this sense of urgency into concrete measures.

III. Egyptian efforts at the regional level

At the regional level, Egypt continued to play an active role within the framework of the League of Arab States on issues relating to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Thus, it has participated in the adoption of several resolutions on subjects that fall within the scope of the Treaty.

Egypt has also played a prominent role in the work of the technical committee charged with formulating a draft treaty on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapon of mass destruction. Two meetings of the Committee were held in Cairo in June 2002 and January 2003.

Egypt also participated in a symposium held in Cairo in February 2003 that was jointly organized by the League of Arab States and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). The symposium was entitled "Building a Zone Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East: Global Non-Proliferation Regimes and Regional Experiences".

IV. Egyptian efforts at the national level

Egypt's strong commitment to the objective of ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was reaffirmed at the national level in an address given by President Hosni Mubarak to a joint session of the Egyptian Parliament on 16 November 2002, in which he said: "We continue to call - insistently - for the same standards to be applied to Israel [as are applied to Iraq] so that it may abandon all its capabilities in the field of weapons of mass destruction, and thereby contribute to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction as one of the main elements for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and that will also strengthen international efforts to prevent the proliferation of such weapons, in view of the threat they pose to all mankind." The President' remarks have been echoed by members of the Egyptian Government, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Maher El Sayed, who, in December 2002, recalled that Security Council resolution 687 calls for ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction as a first step towards the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

At the national level too, and within the context of its comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, Egypt continued to receive IAEA inspection teams throughout the past year. All the inspections showed that Egypt is complying fully with its commitments under the safeguards agreement with the Agency.

V. Conclusion

During the past year, Egypt continued to explore every avenue that could lead to concrete progress in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. It believes that others - especially those in the Middle East region - should make an equally strong commitment. In the case of Israel, this commitment has not been forthcoming.

Egypt believes that, if the credibility and cohesiveness of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime is to be maintained, the international community must show a greater commitment to the objective of ridding the Middle East of the threat of nuclear weapons, in keeping with its own resolutions and decisions.

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Steps taken by the People's Republic of China to further the Middle East peace process and to promote the establishment in the Middle East region of a nuclear-weapon-free zone: national report submitted by China

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to promoting the Middle East peace process and actively supports efforts to establish a nuclear weapon free zone in the region of the Middle East. In accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the People's Republic of China is currently taking the following steps to promote the Middle East peace process and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

I. Urgently appealing to all the parties involved to endeavour to promote the Middle East peace process in a spirit of reconciliation

In dealing with the Middle East question, China upholds the principle of fairness and pursues no self-interest; it has always determined its own position in accordance with the rights and wrongs of any given situation. Acting from the standpoint of fairness, China has always maintained that the spirit of reconciliation should be followed in dealing with Middle East issues, in the belief that "harmony is precious", and it holds that the negotiation of peace is the only viable option for resolving the Middle East question.

In this spirit, China has all along followed developments in the Middle East with close attention: it sincerely hopes to see progress in the Middle East and does not want the achievements of 10 years' of Middle East peace negotiations to be set at nought. China voices its serious concern and dismay at the unending violent conflict between Israel and Palestine, which is bringing an increasingly heavy loss of life. China opposes the conduct of any terrorist activities or extreme violence against civilians and supports all mediation efforts by the international community designed to bring about a relaxation of the tensions in the area. China appeals to both the Israeli and Palestinian sides to exercise restraint and remain calm and urges them to adopt practical measures conducive to relaxing the tensions between them, so as to create the necessary conditions at the earliest possible stage for the revival of peace talks.

This spirit of reconciliation lies at the heart of China's position on how the Middle East question should be tackled. Guided by this spirit, China has made extensive efforts to promote a solution to the Middle East question. The leaders of countries throughout the Middle East have all expressed appreciation for its efforts to calm the dispute between Israel and Palestine and their hopes that China will deploy even greater efforts with a view to relaxing tensions in the area and resuscitating the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

In this spirit, China supports the Arab peace proposal agreed by the Arab League at its fourteenth summit conference in March 2003, and commends Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia on his contribution to this initiative.

II. Promoting resolution of the Middle East question through a wide range of mediation efforts at the bilateral level

With a view to helping all the parties concerned reach a peaceful solution to the Middle East question, China has conducted extensive mediation efforts of different kinds in its bilateral contacts with all these countries, as described below.

1. Bilateral mediation efforts with Israel and the Arab countries, through bilateral summit meetings and exchange visits

China has had numerous exchange visits with all the countries of the Middle East. President Arafat of Palestine has visited China 14 times, President Mubarak of Egypt 8 times, the new King of Jordan has also visited China twice since his accession to the throne. High-level government officials from Israel have also made frequent visits to China. Senior Chinese State officials have also visited all the countries of the Middle East on many occasions. Thus, in April 2000, Chinese Premier Jiang Zemin visited Palestine, Israel, Egypt and other Middle East countries. In April 2002, Prime Minister Zhu Rongji visited Egypt, and the Prime Minister of Lebanon visited China. In January 2003, Chinese State councillor Ismail Amat visited Jordan. In June and December 2002, Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Wenchang visited Israel, Palestine and Syria. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has conducted separate political consultations with the foreign ministries of Egypt, Israel and Syria.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to the opportunity afforded by bilateral summit meetings and bilateral visits in promoting mediation efforts with all parties of the Middle East. China appreciates the efforts made by all sides in carrying forward the Middle East peace process and encourages them to continue their efforts, to ensure the further deepening of that process. Whenever tensions arise in the Middle East, China consistently advises the parties concerned, pointing out that replacing one form of violence by another form of violence can only deepen mutual hatred and that peace negotiations offer the only legitimate means of resolving the conflict; it appeals to both the Arab and the Israeli sides actively to coordinate the mediation efforts by the international community, to calm the conflict and to return to the path of peace talks.

2. Efforts to relieve tensions in the Middle East through telephone conversations, exchanges of letters and other modalities

In response to developments in the Middle East, the Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan has frequently made telephone calls, either on request or on his own initiative, to the leaders of Palestine and Israel. He has explained the views held by China with regard to the given situation in the Middle East and urged all the parties involved to exercise restraint, to make every effort to prevent any further escalation of the conflict and to maintain stability in the region, so as to set in place an atmosphere conducive to the early resumption of peace talks. Chinese leaders have often exchanged letters with the leaders of countries in the Middle East, setting forth the Chinese position and actively pursuing mediation efforts with all parties.

3. Appealing for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict, through the issuance of statements by spokesmen setting forth the Chinese position

The Chinese Foreign Ministry pays very close attention to developments in the Middle East situation and, through the medium of statements issued at the appropriate time by its spokesmen, it sets forth the Chinese Government's position on any given situation in the Middle East, condemns any abusive use of force, appeals to all parties involved to renounce the use of force and to seek a resolution to the Middle East question through peaceful negotiations.

III. Appointment of a special envoy on Middle East issues, and his active participation in international efforts to promote peace

In September 2002, in response to appeals by the countries concerned in the Middle East region, in particular the Arab States, China established a post of special envoy on Middle East issues and appointed an official to that post. In November, the Chinese special envoy on Middle East issues visited Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and Palestine and also held separate meetings with the special representatives of the United States of America, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United Nations, the "quadripartite" group, who were in the Middle East at that time. In these meetings, the special envoy explained China's position on ways of promoting the Middle East peace process and indicated its support for and readiness to participate in all international efforts designed to restore peace and stability to the Middle East region and its willingness to play an active role in the international conference convened for that purpose. China's efforts have been welcomed and are highly valued by all the parties involved. The Chinese special envoy on Middle East issues is currently maintaining close contacts and pursuing consultations with both the Arab and the Israeli sides and with other members of the international community concerned with the issue, and will make further visits to the Middle East as and when necessary.

IV. Using the framework of the United Nations as a means of calming the violence in Israel and Palestine and of promoting the Middle East peace process

China has always advocated and supported active use of the United Nations and, in particular, its Security Council as the means of solving the Middle East question and, in fulfilment of its responsibility under the United Nations Charter, calming the violence between Israel and Palestine and preserving peace and security in the Middle East region. China advocates a political solution to the Palestine-Israeli conflict through peace negotiations, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the principle of "land for peace" decided upon at the Madrid Conference. Only if all the parties involved conscientiously implement the agreements and understandings already reached will it be possible to establish trust and stabilize the situation, thereby bringing closer fulfilment of an important precondition for long-term peace.

The Chinese Government has undertaken its own efforts to promote the peace process in the Middle East and to put an end to the violent conflict between Israel and Palestine. When, at successive sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, the issue of the Middle East has been debated and when the Security Council considered the draft resolution sponsored by the Non-Aligned Movement on the deployment of United Nations military observers, China has always given its active support and participated in consultations to reach unanimity or voted in favour. China has always supported and actively participated in efforts by the United Nations to resolve the Middle East question. For many years, China has regularly contributed to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and has done everything in its power to help Palestinian refugees. On 12 March 2002, when the Security Council adopted its resolution 1397 (2002) on the situation in the Middle East, China actively participated in the adoption process and voted in support of the resolution.

V. Support for efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

China has long since undertaken unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones and has always supported efforts by the countries of the regions concerned, on the basis of voluntary consultations, to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones. In 1992, in its statement upon accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, China made the following solemn appeal: "All nuclear-weapon States should undertake to support the proposed establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, should respect the status of such zones and should enter into corresponding obligations." We continue to advocate that those States in the Middle East region which are not yet members of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty should urgently and unconditionally accede to the Treaty and accept the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system.

China fully endorses the provisions of article 7 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which states: "Nothing in this Treaty affects the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories." It also supports resolution 49/71 of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted in 1994, on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and the relevant stipulations regarding a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East contained in

the resolution on the Middle East question adopted at the 1995 NPT Review Conference. China is of the view that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is conducive to the strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. It is also fully aware that the risk of nuclear proliferation is all the greater in areas of tension. China has always maintained that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East will be conducive to relaxing tension in that region and promoting the resolution of the Middle East question and, for that reason, from the very outset, it has unequivocally supported the proposed establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The United Nations has adopted numerous resolutions calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, and on each occasion China has always supported the resolution by voting in its favour. At the same time, China is also taking active steps at the bilateral level to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In high-level meetings between China and the leaders of all the Middle East countries, China invariably conveys its appreciation for the efforts made by all countries to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and at all times has consistently maintained a very clear position on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. It is China's intention, together with the international community, to continue its efforts and its contribution to the attainment of peace in the Middle East region and, at the earliest possible stage, the establishment in that region of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon free zone in the Middle East and the realisation of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Australia

Australia fully supports the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Australia has joined the consensus every year at the UN General Assembly in support of the resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East freely arrived at among states of the region.

A key concern in the Middle East was Iraq's long-standing refusal to cooperate with UNMOVIC and the IAEA to achieve full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and Iraq's obligations under the NPT. Resolution of the significant questions about Iraq's NPT compliance during Saddam Hussein's regime is now finally possible, but only after a coalition of over fifty countries joined to help disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

The Additional Protocol on strengthened IAEA safeguards offers Middle East states an important confidence building opportunity. Australia recently approached Middle East states urging their early conclusion of the Additional Protocol.

Iran has now revealed an extensive nuclear program raising serious questions about its nuclear intentions. Australia is concerned about Iran's intention to develop proliferation-sensitive nuclear technology, such as uranium enrichment, especially given the tensions which exist in the Middle East region. Australia has urged Iran to conclude and fully apply an Additional Protocol as a means of helping allay concerns about its nuclear intentions.

While countries of the Middle East would need to take the initiative in developing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, membership of and adherence to existing treaties and instruments would be a step towards this aim. Australia contributes to the goal of such a zone through its efforts to achieve universal membership of the NPT, CTBT, BWC, CWC, and our active support for the International Code of Conduct (ICOC) against the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

Australia is active in efforts to achieve universal application of nuclear safeguards measures - in the Middle East and elsewhere.

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Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by the Government of New Zealand

Article I

New Zealand views the commitment of nuclear weapon states to non-transfer and other controls under this Article as essential. Suggestions in the recent period that international terrorists were interested in obtaining nuclear explosive devices have underlined the continuing importance of the commitment in changing circumstances.

Article II

New Zealand meets fully its commitment under this Article in all respects. New Zealand obligations through the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) are legislated in the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act 1987. New Zealand concerns about compliance by other non-nuclear weapon states parties to the NPT have been expressed in various forums, for example at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference.

Article III

The Safeguards Agreement between the IAEA and New Zealand came into force on 29 February 1972, and the Model Additional Protocol to the Agreement was concluded on 24 September 1998. In 2001 the IAEA assessed New Zealand to be in full compliance with all its safeguard commitments. With no nuclear weapons, no nuclear energy generation, no nuclear reactor and no production of uranium or other relevant material, New Zealand has only very minor activities subject to safeguards.

New Zealand applies export controls to materials and dual-use goods which can be used in a nuclear weapon programme. It coordinates these with other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which New Zealand joined in 1994.

Article IV

New Zealand has decided by policy not to use its rights to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In the context of global negotiations relating to climate change, and in the IAEA, New Zealand points to the long term lack of sustainability of nuclear energy and the continuing risks of pollution and proliferation.

In implementing its national export controls New Zealand seeks to restrict trade related only to unsafeguarded nuclear facilities or nuclear weapon programmes in non-nuclear weapon states.

New Zealand has been active, at such forums as the IAEA General Conference, in promoting close attention to the safe transport of radioactive materials and radioactive waste. New Zealand is concerned that there be the highest possible safety standards and that they be applied fully, that coastal and other interested states receive notification in advance of shipments, and that advanced liability arrangements be in place.

Article V

New Zealand took an active part in negotiation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and ratified the CTBT in March 1999. In New Zealand the Treaty has been enacted in the Nuclear-Test-Ban Act 1999. A ban on nuclear testing is also included in the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act 1987.

New Zealand remains a strong supporter of the Treaty and its Provisional Technical Secretariat in Vienna. New Zealand was active at the second Entry-Into-Force Conference for the CTBT in November 2001, which the New Zealand Foreign Minister addressed. New Zealand was also a co-signatory of the Joint Ministerial Statement of Support for the CTBT, initiated by Australia, Japan and the Netherlands, at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2002. New Zealand believes a continued moratorium on all nuclear explosive testing is imperative pending formal entry of the comprehensive test ban into force. In the meantime, New Zealand cooperates with the Provisional Treaty Secretariat in helping to establish the International Monitoring System for the CTBT, with stations in New Zealand itself and in regional partners in the South Pacific.

Article VI

With its partners in the New Agenda, and as Chair of the relevant Subsidiary Body at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, New Zealand has worked hard in recent years to promote the negotiations in good faith relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament. In this context New Zealand draws strength from the 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

In February 2000 the New Zealand Parliament resolved, without dissent:

as a mark of the dawning of the year 2000, to appeal to all fellow member states of the United Nations, and especially the nuclear weapon states, to join with New Zealand in fulfilling the obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

At the United Nations in 2002, New Zealand, with the New Agenda, was a lead sponsor of Resolution 57/59 (*Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda*), which highlighted limited progress on many NPT issues and called upon States to abide fully by their commitments. This work followed on from the passage of Resolution 55/33C in 2000, which brought key commitments made at the NPT Review Conference into the wider UN context.

In March 2001 New Zealand hosted in partnership with the UN Regional Disarmament Centre for Asia and the Pacific a conference of governments and non-government organisations, which considered follow-up to the Review Conference and other issues on the disarmament agenda. The Prime Minister of New Zealand

welcomed participants to the conference and the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control attended sessions, spoke about New Zealand's role in the New Agenda, and chaired a discussion of nuclear free zones.

At the Conference on Disarmament New Zealand has supported the Amorim and Five Ambassadors' proposals for a programme of work including on nuclear disarmament, fissile materials, outer space, and negative security assurances.

Article VII

New Zealand is a full party to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty of 1985 (the Treaty of Rarotonga, also enacted in the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act 1987). All the independent countries of the South Pacific are now covered by the Treaty, and four of the nuclear weapon states (Britain, China, France and Russia) have ratified Protocols giving security assurances to the region. The United States has signed the Protocols.

In recent years New Zealand has worked with Brazil and others to create new links between the nuclear weapon free zones of the Southern Hemisphere.

Article VIII

As mentioned, New Zealand took a very prominent part in the 6th Review Conference of the NPT (New York, April/May 2000) and it will participate fully in preparations for the 7th Review Conference, in 2005.

Article IX

New Zealand continues to emphasise the importance of universalisation of the NPT, for example in bilateral dialogues in 2001 with India, and in international forums (especially with New Agenda partners) calling on India, Israel and Pakistan. New Zealand expects that these countries accede to the NPT as non-nuclear weapon states in accordance with Article IX. New Zealand welcomed Cuba's accession to the NPT in 2002 as a positive step towards the goal of universalisation.

New Zealand remains very concerned at the DPRK's current stance against the NPT, and has urged the DPRK to cease efforts to withdraw from the Treaty

Article X

New Zealand joined the consensus decision in 1995 that the NPT be extended indefinitely. The Conference adopted a package of decisions in 1995: strengthening the review process; Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament; extension of the Treaty; the Resolution on the Middle East, and all these elements remain significant. In New Zealand's view, the extension of the NPT was not a permit for the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons.

Building on this, the 2000 Review Conference agreed on detailed practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty. The nuclear weapon states gave an unequivocal commitment to achieve the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. New Zealand has evaluated national progress with regards to the 13 steps, and attaches a document outlining progress as an annex to this report.

Relevant to article X, the Conference agreed in 2000: "the principle of irreversibility to apply to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures".

13 Steps: New Zealand Progress

Step 1

The importance and urgency of signatures and ratifications, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve the early entry into force of the CTBT.

New Zealand ratified the CTBT in March 1999, having taken an active part in its negotiation. At the United Nations in 2002, New Zealand was a core sponsor of Resolution 57/73 (*Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty*), which reiterated calls for universal ratification of the CTBT. Also in 2002, New Zealand co-sponsored a Joint Ministerial Statement on the CTBT, which Ministers delivered in New York. New Zealand works closely with the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) in Vienna on CTBT issues. Pending ratification of the treaty, New Zealand has been active in the establishment of an International Monitoring System (IMS) for the CTBT, and has set up six monitoring stations on New Zealand territory. New Zealand co-operates closely with Fiji, the Cook Islands, and Kiribati on the installation of IMS stations within the Pacific region.

Step 2

A moratorium on nuclear-weapon-test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending entry into force of that Treaty

The Joint Ministerial Statement on the CTBT, co-sponsored by New Zealand in September 2002, called upon "all States to continue a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions", pending official ratification of the Treaty. New Zealand's Foreign Minister reaffirmed the importance of this voluntary undertaking in his public support of the statement. New Zealand has worked with Pacific countries to put in place the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, which bans nuclear testing. New Zealand has also created a New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, and sustained it against international pressure.

Step3

The necessity of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the statement of the Special Coordinator in 1995 and the mandate contained therein, taking into consideration both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives. The CD is urged to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to their conclusion within five years.

New Zealand has actively supported moves to overcome the current failure within the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to agree on a programme of work, including especially the Amorim and Five Ambassadors' proposals for a programme of work on nuclear disarmament, fissile materials, outer space and negative security assurances.

Step 4

The necessity of establishing in the CD an appropriate subsidiary body with a mandate to deal with nuclear disarmament. The CD is urged to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate establishment of such a body.

The establishment of a subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament is a key element of the Amorim and Five Ambassadors' proposals, and would provide significant progress towards New Zealand hopes for the CD.

Step 5

The principle of irreversibility to apply to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms controls and reduction measures.

New Zealand has argued, in partnership with the New Agenda, that irreversibility in nuclear disarmament, nuclear reductions, and other related nuclear arms control measures is imperative. The New Agenda Position Paper, submitted to the First Preparatory Committee in 2002, reaffirmed that continuous irreversible progress in nuclear arms reductions was a fundamental pre-requisite for promoting nuclear non-proliferation.

Step 6

An unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon states to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to the nuclear disarmament to which all states parties are committed under Article VI.

New Zealand, in partnership with the New Agenda, presses states to live up to the unequivocal undertaking delivered at the 2000 Review Conference, for the total elimination of nuclear arsenals. This undertaking remains significant. New Zealand has reminded states of their obligations, most recently through the Foreign Minister's public statement on 28 February 2003, which addressed missile defence issues. The unequivocal undertaking on the part of all NPT states is a foundation on which the New Agenda Coalition continues to build.

Step 7

The early entry into force and full implementation of START II and the conclusion of START III as soon as possible while preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty as a cornerstone of strategic stability and as a basis for further reductions of strategic offensive weapons, in accordance with its provisions.

New Zealand notes that START II and START III have been discarded following the withdrawal of the United States from the Treaty on the limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile systems (ABM) in 2002. The Moscow Treaty (2002) represents a positive step in the process of nuclear de-escalation between the US and Russia, through undertakings to reduce the numbers of deployed strategic nuclear warheads. However, New Zealand emphasises, through the New Agenda, that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible destruction of weapons towards the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Step 8

The completion and implementation of the Trilateral Initiative between the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

New Zealand supports this initiative.

Step 9

Steps by all nuclear-weapon states leading to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international security for all:

- *Further efforts by the nuclear-weapon states to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally.*

- *Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon states with regard to the nuclear-weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant to Article VI and as a voluntary confidence-building measure to support further progress on nuclear disarmament.*
- *The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process.*
- *Concrete agreed measures to further reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons systems.*
- *A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination.*
- *The engagement as soon as appropriate of all the nuclear-weapon states in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons.*

New Zealand supports the full range of steps outlined above. In particular, New Zealand is keen to see progress on the issue of non-strategic nuclear weapons, and was a lead sponsor of Resolution 57/66 (*Reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons*) at the United Nations in 2002.

Step 10

Arrangements by all nuclear-weapon states to place, as soon as practicable, fissile material designated by each of them as no longer required for military purposes under IAEA or other relevant international verification and arrangements for the disposition of such material for peaceful purposes, to ensure that such material remains permanently outside of military programmes.

New Zealand recognises and welcomes the fact that all non-nuclear-weapon states have already accepted full controls on fissile materials. These controls are verified and administered by the IAEA. New Zealand urges nuclear weapon states to adopt similar commitments in this area.

Step 11

Reaffirmation that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

The New Zealand Government engages in a wide range of disarmament work relating to weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons. Through active membership of the NPT, Chemical Weapons Convention, and Biological Weapons Convention, New Zealand campaigns for progress towards the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. New Zealand works within the international community on conventional weapon issues such as landmines and inhumane weapons. There is close co-operation between New Zealand and Pacific neighbours on efforts to reduce and control the small arms trade. New Zealand also belongs to four major export control regimes: the Australia Group, Wassenaar Arrangement, Nuclear Suppliers Group, and Missile Technology Control Regime.

Step 12

Regular reports, within the framework of the NPT strengthened review process by all States parties on the implementation of Article VI and paragraph (4) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament", and recalling the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996.

New Zealand submitted a report to the First Preparatory Committee in 2002, which set out New Zealand's progress with regards to each article of the NPT. This report has been revised and updated and is submitted to the Second Preparatory Committee in conjunction with this document.

Step 13

The further development of the verification capabilities that will be required to provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

New Zealand has given strong support to a system of strengthened IAEA safeguards, including in regional disarmament discussions.

Resolution on the Middle East: New Zealand Progress

Operative Clauses:

1. Endorses aims and objectives of Middle East peace process and recognises efforts towards this goal contribute to a Middle East zone free of WMD – including nuclear.

New Zealand stands for a balanced and constructive approach to the complex problems of the Middle East. We support the negotiation of a just, enduring and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principles derived from successive Agreements between the two parties. We support the effort of the Quartet and look forward to it finalising details of the road map towards a two state solution. The New Zealand position has been made clear through contact with representatives from both sides from time to time, including with the Israeli Foreign Minister and the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, and in public fora such as the statement delivered by New Zealand at the 57th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

New Zealand has consistently contributed to peacekeeping operations in the Middle East. We were one of the original participants in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) and contribute to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO). We also contribute to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in support of its work in addressing the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Territories.

2. Reiterates call for all remaining States to accede to NPT and accept IAEA safeguards on all nuclear activities.

New Zealand, in partnership with the New Agenda Coalition, emphasises the importance of universal accession to the NPT. We call upon Israel to sign and ratify the NPT and to bring into force comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

3. Notes with concern the continued existence of unsafeguarded facilities in the Middle East and urges non-parties to the Treaty to accept full scope IAEA safeguards at such facilities

New Zealand is a staunch supporter of the IAEA's role. We advocate full scope safeguards and the strengthened safeguard system through additional protocols. In the context of the Middle East, New Zealand remains particularly concerned at the continued existence of unsafeguarded facilities in Israel and Iran, and works within the United Nations General Assembly, the NPT review process, and the IAEA General Conference to address this issue.

4. Reaffirms importance of early universal adherence to NPT and calls upon all Middle East States who have not yet done so to accede to NPT as soon as possible.

Contribution as outlined in response to Operative Clause 2 above.

5. Calls upon all Middle East States to take practical steps in appropriate forums towards an effectively verifiable Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and refrain from anything that precludes this objective.

New Zealand strongly supports nuclear weapons free zones. We work closely with Brazil on efforts to foster a Southern Hemisphere Free of Nuclear Weapons. New Zealand remains fully convinced that the establishment of regional nuclear weapon free zones are useful steps towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

6. Call upon all NPT members, in particular Nuclear Weapon States, to extend cooperation and exert utmost efforts towards ensuring establishment by regional parties of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

New Zealand is encouraged by progress on the Treaties of Rarotonga and Tlacteloco. New Zealand continues to support the development of all regional nuclear weapon free zones.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA ON STEPS TO PROMOTE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE REALIZATION OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE 1995 RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Report by the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

1. Further to the provisions of the Final Document adopted at the conclusion of the Sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT in 2000, requesting all States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria has the honour to submit a report containing the following elements.

2. Algeria believes that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone is an effective part of the consolidation of regional peace and security and contributes to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and the achievement of the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

3. However, because of the proximity and close ties between Africa and the Middle East, Algeria remains deeply concerned about the lack of progress in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this sensitive region. It therefore believes that it is essential to take concrete measures to implement the provisions of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East submitted by the three NPT depositary States and adopted by the Fifth Review Conference. It recalls, in this respect, that the Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference in 2000 reaffirms the importance of this resolution and recognizes that it remains valid until the goals and objectives are achieved.

4. Algeria also endorses the position expressed by the States parties at the Sixth Review Conference calling upon Israel to accede to the NPT and place its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards in order to realize the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East region and achieve the legitimate aspiration to the establishment of a non-nuclear zone.

5. Choosing to promote the development of research in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Algeria acceded and committed itself to the NPT and, in March 1996, concluded an agreement on comprehensive safeguards by virtue of which all its nuclear activities are placed under its control in accordance with article II of the NPT.

6. Algeria has always worked in support of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world; it endorses the OAU Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa and, on 11 February 1988, was the third African State to ratify the African Nuclear-weapon-free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty). Similarly, Algeria supported the establishment of such zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, in the South Pacific and in South-East Asia by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Bangkok, which have considerably reduced the risks of nuclear proliferation and contributed to the strengthening of international peace and security, and welcomes the efforts undertaken by five central Asian States to conclude a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

7. Within the Arab Group, it sponsors the resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" submitted each year to the United Nations General Assembly, and supports the resolution entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East"; similarly, it participated actively in the work of the working group on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones at the substantive session of the Disarmament Commission in April 1999.

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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report by the Kingdom of Morocco on the implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and of paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on the "principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation", as well as the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND OF PARAGRAPH 4 (c) OF THE 1995 DECISION ON THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

1. The Kingdom of Morocco remains committed to general and complete disarmament and in particular to nuclear disarmament. Since its accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1970, it has constantly worked for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their non-proliferation. Morocco believes that the NPT is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and a key instrument for the maintenance of peace and security in the world. It has therefore always supported initiatives aimed at strengthening the authority of this regime and promoting its universality.

2. In implementation of the NPT, Morocco concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as of 1975.

3. It has undertaken the domestic procedure for signing an additional protocol.

4. At the level of the General Assembly, Morocco has always supported the adoption of resolutions for the promotion of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

5. As a Contracting Party, the Kingdom of Morocco has consistently supported the decisions aimed at strengthening the review process of the Treaty.

6. The new international security situation resulting from the events of 11 September 2001 demonstrated the enormous importance of the NPT and the need to preserve its strength and credibility in order to confront the threats associated with nuclear terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Morocco believes that the strengthening of the multilateral NPT regime remains a necessary measure to combat the illicit proliferation of nuclear devices and materials and their possession by terrorists.

7. Morocco has ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and is playing an active role in the working group on amendment of the Convention.

8. Morocco stresses the crucial importance of respect by all States parties for the provisions of the NPT and the obligations arising from it.

9. Morocco, which supports a total ban on nuclear tests, has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It deplores the fact that this Treaty, which was opened for signature on 24 September 1996, has still not entered into force. In this respect, it reiterates its appeal to all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty without delay. It stresses the importance of respect for the moratoriums on nuclear tests and of the convening of conferences in order to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty.

10. Morocco reaffirms the inalienable right of the States parties to the Treaty to carry out research and develop the production and utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, particularly through international cooperation under IAEA monitoring.

11. Morocco endorses action to overcome obstacles in the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and continues to support the undertaking of negotiations for the formulation of a treaty on fissile material, a legal instrument on negative security assurances and a convention on nuclear disarmament.

12. Morocco fully supports the positive conclusions of the 2000 NPT Conference and reaffirms the importance of their implementation by the States parties, in a transparent and irreversible manner.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1995 RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

13. The Kingdom of Morocco remains convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes to the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. For that reason, it has always supported the establishment of such zones where they do not exist.

14. Morocco was one of the first countries to call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, because it believes that the existence of such a zone is not only a necessary measure to banish proliferation and insecurity in this region, but also an international objective and a factor in the consolidation of peace and security in the world.

15. At the level of the League of Arab States, Morocco is participating in the development of a legal and technical mechanism for the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

16. Within IAEA, Morocco is engaged in promoting the application of the Agency's safeguards regime throughout the Middle East region, because it believes that this is an international security measure which should affect all States of the world.

17. Morocco encourages the conclusion by all States of the Middle East region, including Israel, of comprehensive safeguards agreements with IAEA, as an important step towards the creation of a climate of trust between the States of the region, and a preliminary measure for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

18. Morocco has helped promote confidence-building measures between the States parties to the conflict in the Middle East, particularly by participating in the work of the Multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security.

19. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East requires that the only State of the region which is not yet a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty - Israel - should accede to it and submit its nuclear installations to the IAEA safeguards regime. This concern was specifically mentioned in the decisions of the NPT review conferences held in 1995 and 2000.

20. It stresses the need for all the parties concerned to take concrete measures, as a matter of urgency, for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region, and, pending the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly their intention to refrain, on the basis of reciprocity, from manufacturing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and not to allow the emplacement of nuclear weapons in their territories by any third party.

21. Morocco believes that appropriate security measures should be established for nuclear installations.

22. The Kingdom of Morocco is conducting sustained action, at both regional and international levels, to encourage all the States of the region to undertake the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

23. The Kingdom of Morocco constantly reiterates its appeal to the nuclear Powers, and particularly to the depositaries of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to the international community and to international organizations, to rise to their responsibilities for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2003

Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Canada

1. At the 57th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Canada supported the First Committee resolution on the Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. While Israel maintains a policy of nuclear ambiguity, it is widely assumed to have developed a significant nuclear weapons capability. Canada has stated that it is convinced that this program is not in the long-term interests of Israel, of regional stability and of global security. Canada has called upon Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

2. Canada has also called for full adherence and compliance with the Treaty by States parties in the region, and notes that six States in the region have not concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA. In addition, Canada has observed that all states in the region could further contribute to regional stability and security by demonstrating greater openness and transparency through the conclusion of Additional Protocols to their respective safeguards agreements. Canada, in accordance with its obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441 (2002), provided assistance to the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors in Iraq.

3. Canada is a strong supporter of the Middle East peace process, and plays a role in the multilateral aspect of this process as Chair of the Refugee Working Group. Canada fully supports the continuing efforts of the Quartet towards implementation of the Road Map.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

Report submitted by Saudi Arabia

Second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Geneva, 28 April-9 May 2003

This report is being submitted in response to the request made in part I of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York that nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East region and other interested States should report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings, on the steps they have taken to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the honour to submit its report on this subject.

1. The subject of ridding the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction has been stressed in numerous international and regional forums.

1.1 Every year since its twenty-ninth session in 1974, the General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted a resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. From the thirty-fifth session of 1980 up to the fifty-third session of 2002, the resolution was always adopted by consensus.

1.2 On 27 March 1994, at its 101st regular meeting of ministers, the Council of the League of Arab States adopted resolution No. 5380 providing for the formation of a committee to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons; the

initiative was supported and endorsed by all Arab States. On 21 May 1999, at its 114th regular meeting of ministers, the Council of the League of Arab States adopted resolution No. 5491 reaffirming the continuing support of Arab States for the aims and objectives of the NPT and stressing the importance of ensuring that all States without exception should adhere to the Treaty, as the linchpin of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

1.3 In the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, the Conference reaffirmed its support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and stressed the importance of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review Conference, which calls upon all States in the region to accede to the NPT and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. It also calls for the promotion of the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

2. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accords the utmost concern to efforts to avert the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to endeavours to eliminate them at both the international and regional levels.

2.1 At the international level, the Kingdom's commitment to this matter has been given concrete expression by its accession to the principal international treaties and conventions concerned with nuclear, chemical, and biological, weapons of mass destruction. This represents an official position of the Kingdom which aims at supporting international efforts to combat the proliferation of, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in order to achieve international peace and security. The Kingdom has furthermore endorsed the relevant United Nations resolutions, including the resolutions of the General Assembly entitled "Nuclear disarmament" (55/33 T), "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons" (55/33 R), "Reducing nuclear danger" (55/33 N) and "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons" (55/33 X). The Kingdom has also supported, and continues to support, international efforts to establish a zone free of these weapons in the Middle East, endorsing General Assembly resolutions on this subject, including its resolutions entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" and "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

2.2 At the regional level, the Kingdom's participation in, and its tireless and ongoing endeavours at, the regular meetings of the committee responsible for drafting a treaty on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction are a reflection of the Kingdom's policy of ridding the region of all weapons of mass destruction and of its conviction that security and stability cannot be achieved through the possession of such destructive weapons. Accordingly, the Kingdom has taken every care to join fraternal Arab States in assiduously attending the meetings the committee has held ever since its establishment in 1994.

2.3 In this regard, while presiding over the meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 7 Muharram A.H. 1424 (corresponding to 10 March 2003), the Custodian of the Two Holy Places, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, stressed the importance of ridding the Middle East

region of all weapons of mass destruction. King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud further highlighted the importance of ensuring that the policy of eliminating weapons of mass destruction should be binding on all States of the region and should be applied to all without exception, so as to guarantee security and stability for all the States and peoples in the region.

3. The successful establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in certain regions of the world, thanks to cooperation between the States concerned and their recognition of the vital importance of peaceful coexistence, marks a positive step towards the creation of a world free of weapons of mass destruction. It is regrettable, however, that the Middle East region remains so far from realizing this goal, because of Israel's refusal of any attempt to achieve it. Israel continues to obstruct the realization of this goal by linking its position on the question of nuclear weapons in the region to the peace process and to comprehensive all-party negotiations. Israel also persists in rejecting calls from the United Nations, the IAEA, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference urging it to desist from developing, producing, or testing nuclear weapons. Indeed, it remains the only country in the region to have nuclear weapons and programmes and chemical weapons outside the scope of the international monitoring regime.

3.1 In this context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia views the Israeli position vis-à-vis the question of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and all the reasons it has given to justify its possession and development of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, as being in clear and blatant contradiction with all its claims about wishing for peace with the peoples and States of the region. True peace must be built on trust and good will between the States and peoples of the region and their liberation from oppression and occupation, and not on the possession or threat of use of nuclear weapons or the imposition of a policy of presenting others with a fait accompli, or of hegemony, which will be a source of concern and pose a threat not only to the peoples of the region, but also to international peace and security.

3.2 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has stressed, and continues to stress, the importance of ridding the region of the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction without discriminating between the States of the region, following the example of other geographical areas of the world where these weapons have been eliminated thanks to the good will of, and cooperation between, all the States parties to the relevant regional treaties, such as the Tlatelolco, Raratonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba treaties. The success of the Pelindaba Treaty in eliminating nuclear weapons from the African continent was largely influenced by the initiative taken by South Africa in eliminating its own nuclear weapons. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls on Israel to follow South Africa's lead, by dismantling its nuclear arsenal in order to promote peace and security in the Middle East and in the world.

3.3 While all States in the Middle East region have acceded to the NPT, which is the linchpin of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, the Kingdom should like to reaffirm that Israel, as the only country in the region not to have signed the Treaty and to have nuclear facilities outside the scope of IAEA safeguards, now more than ever must take the urgent steps

required for its accession to the Treaty and should comply with the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. It should also place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards in order to realize effective progress towards ridding the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

4. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that international efforts on behalf of peace will be redoubled in this important region of the world, with a view to actually achieving the goal of ridding the Middle East region of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. Although the Kingdom supported the process of disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction that was implemented by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission and IAEA inspectors in accordance with the terms of Security Council resolutions, most recently Security Council resolution 1441 (2002), it should like to underscore the importance of applying international resolutions fairly and comprehensively. In particular, selectivity should be avoided by working to disarm Israel of its deadliest nuclear weapons of mass destruction and by giving effect both to Security Council resolution 482 (1980), which calls on Israel to place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards regime, and to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), which was adopted pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and notes that all actions to be taken by Iraq in the sphere of disarmament represent steps towards the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

4.1 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the necessity of revitalizing international efforts in support of Israel's accession to the NPT, since it is the only country in the Middle East to have failed to accede to that instrument, and of working to ensure that it places all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. If this were done, it would have a positive impact on the prospects for ridding the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and would strengthen opportunities for the achievement of peace and security in the region and the world.

4.2 In this connection, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should like to endorse the view expressed by the participants at the 2000 Review Conference that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is "the only absolute guarantee against use or threat of use" of such weapons. The Kingdom should like to recall the unequivocal undertaking given by the five nuclear-weapon States at the 2000 NPT Review Conference to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The Kingdom believes, in the light of the ongoing instability in the Middle East and the dangers posed by recent events in the region, that the fears of many non-nuclear-weapon States should be given serious consideration and that a binding international instrument should be drafted to guarantee the safety of non-nuclear-weapon States.

4.3 In this regard, the Kingdom calls on nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States to cease their production of fissile materials for military purposes, to undertake negotiations on the establishment of the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty, and to place the materials they produce under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards system. It also calls on nuclear-weapon States or those with nuclear capabilities to desist from conducting nuclear tests or from encouraging other States to conduct such tests.

4.4 The Kingdom also believes in the importance of giving effect to the aims and purposes of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and of implementing the terms of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference in this regard. The interested States, particularly the three depositary States which sponsored the resolution on the Middle East, should work towards the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and follow up on the recommendations set forth in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, taking the appropriate steps to push for the urgent "establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons".

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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Steps to Promote the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East and the Realization of the Goals and Objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Japan

1. Japan supported, and continues to fully support, the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which calls for the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems. Japan also joined, at the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, the consensus adoption of resolution 57/55 of 22 November 2002, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East."

2. The establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East will ultimately require adherence by all States in the region to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Japan has been actively taking part in international efforts to encourage universal adherence to these multilateral, legally binding instruments on the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction. As a part of such an endeavour, on the occasion of her latest visit to the Middle East region from 26 April to 3 May 2003, Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, renewed her efforts to urge the Israeli Government to become a Party to the NPT and to the CTBT as well as the Syrian Government to the CTBT.

3. It is no less important that compliance with these legal instruments should be fully assured. In this context, Japan believes it is of utmost importance that the issue of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq should definitely be resolved with proper international involvement. Japan also considers it crucial that the future Government of Iraq adhere to all relevant non-proliferation agreements in order to prove its willingness to behave as a responsible member of the international community.

4. In addition, Japan stresses the necessity of strengthening the IAEA Safeguards system, which plays a vital role in underpinning the NPT. Japan has been exerting its efforts to promote and facilitate the conclusion and entry into force of the IAEA safeguards agreements and additional protocols, including hosting the "International Conference on Wider Adherence to Strengthened IAEA Safeguards," to which Middle Eastern countries also participated.

5. Adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by all States in the region would also be a substantial practical step. Japan has also been exerting its utmost efforts to promote adherence to the Treaty by all States, especially those States whose ratifications are required for its entry into force. For this purpose, Japan, with other countries, organized the "Friends of the CTBT" Foreign Ministers Meeting, which some Middle Eastern countries also attended.

6. Japan is firmly committed to supporting the Middle East peace process, which is the key to regional stability. Such stability is a vital factor in establishing the conditions for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Japan will strengthen its efforts to work with the Israelis and Palestinians, as well as the countries concerned, to resume peace negotiations between the two sides, providing assistance for the Palestinians' reform efforts, and building confidence from a mid to long-term perspective.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

5 May 2003

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Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2003

Report on steps taken to promote the achievement of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction, and the realisation of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Sweden

1. In the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in the section entitled "Article VII and the security of non-nuclear-weapon States", paragraph 16 on "Regional Issues", subparagraph 7, it is stated that:

2. "The Conference requests all States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of such a zone (i.e. a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction, *our remark*) and the realisation of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East."

3. Sweden would hereby like to communicate the following information regarding the realisation of the goals and objectives of the Resolution.

(i) Endorses aims and objectives of Middle East peace process and recognises that efforts in this regard, as well as other efforts, contribute to, inter alia, a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction.

Sweden supports negotiations for a just, enduring and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and the principles derived from successive agreements between the parties. We support the efforts of the Quartet and would like the "road map" to be published and implemented without delay. Sweden is strongly committed to the need for a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. This goal could be promoted in several ways, for example, by making full use of the confidence-building measures that exist within the framework of the EU Mediterranean co-operation (the Barcelona Process) and by establishing mechanisms for transparent

and reliable verification in order to destroy the weapons of mass destruction in the region. Regarding Iraq, at present, the IAEA is the sole organisation, with legal powers derived from the NPT and the United Nations Security Council resolutions, to verify Iraq's nuclear disarmament. Inspections still need to be completed in order to resolve remaining questions about Iraq's nuclear programme. In regard to possible other weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, UNMOVIC is the sole organisation, with legal powers derived from the United Nations Security Council resolutions, to verify Iraq's disarmament.

(ii) Calls on the remaining State not party to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept IAEA safeguards.
Sweden continues to emphasise the importance of universal accession and adherence to the NPT. We call upon Israel to sign and ratify the NPT and to place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

(iii) Notes the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded facilities and urges those countries that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities to accept full-scope IAEA safeguards.
Sweden fully supports full scope safeguards and the strengthened safeguards system with the additional protocols. Sweden remains concerned with the existence of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in the region. We urge all States in the Middle East that have not yet done so to conclude and bring into force additional protocols with the IAEA.

(iv) Reaffirms importance of the early realisation of universal adherence to the NPT, and calls upon all States in the Middle East that have not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the NPT as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards.
See answer under paragraph 2.

(v) Calls upon all States in the Middle East to take practical steps in appropriate fora to make progress towards, inter alia, the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems, and to refrain from measures that preclude the achievement of this objective.
Sweden is strongly committed to the establishment of zones free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Sweden voted in favour of resolution 57/55 entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, which was adopted by the 57th United Nations General Assembly.

(vi) Call upon all States parties to the NPT, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to extend co-operation and support efforts towards the early establishment by regional parties of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
Sweden continues to support the establishment of regional nuclear weapon free zones.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

6 May 2003

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Steps taken to promote the environment necessary to encourage nations to establish an effectively verifiable Middle East Zone free of weapons of mass destruction and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by the United States of America

1. The United States welcomes the opportunity to provide information on steps it has taken to promote the environment necessary to encourage nations to establish an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 NPT Resolution on the Middle East. In order to promote the environment necessary to achieve these objectives, the U.S. has three priorities: 1) Supporting efforts to end violence and return to political negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians; 2) Ensuring that states are in compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); and 3) Encouraging all states in the region to join the NPT and adhere to other international nonproliferation treaties and regimes.

I. Support for the Middle East peace efforts

2. Achievement of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East remains a key U.S. foreign policy goal. The U.S. believes that attainment of this goal will help create the confidence necessary to find solutions to the vast array of complex issues that surround the establishment of a regional zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. NPT parties have recognized that efforts toward the goal of universal adherence to the NPT should include the enhancement of regional security, including in the Middle East. The U.S., European Union, United Nations and the Russia Federation, referred to collectively as the Quartet, worked together to develop a road map to realize President Bush's vision of two states -- Israel and Palestine -- living side by side in peace and security. This roadmap, the authoritative international plan for peace, was delivered on April 30 to Israel and the Palestinians. The President has made clear that he is personally committed to implementation of the road map. The time has come to take concrete actions to achieve peace. The U.S. will be the active partner of every party that seeks peace.

II. Ensuring all countries comply with the NPT

3. An array of nuclear nonproliferation challenges exist in the Middle East. During the 2002 meeting of the Preparatory Committee, the U.S. expressed concern regarding non-compliance with the Treaty. There is little hope of establishing an agreement to create a regional zone free of weapons of mass destruction if we cannot ensure that nations of that region implement and uphold existing agreements to which they are party. Ensuring compliance is our highest NPT priority;

4 . compliance concerns need to be addressed directly since they affect the core substance of the NPT. The suspicion aroused when an NPT party violates the Treaty or engages in activities contrary to the Treaty only adds to regional tensions. It contributes to the long legacy of mistrust and undermines the prospects for some day achieving a zone in the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. The entire effort surrounding arms control agreements is brought into question by unchallenged or unremedied treaty violations. No one committed to peace in the Middle East can ignore these issues. The U.S. also cannot ignore efforts by any NPT party to use Treaty adherence as a means to acquire sensitive nuclear technologies, while maintaining nuclear weapon ambitions and pursuing clandestine nuclear capabilities. All NPT parties need to act with resolve in response to any such challenge to the Treaty.

5. For over 12 years Iraq continued to defy the will of the international community. Even after the return of UN inspectors, Iraq failed to meet its obligations to disarm and seize upon the final opportunity afforded by UN Security Council Resolution 1441 which was unanimously adopted. Iraq never made the strategic and political decision to disarm, and so a coalition of the willing undertook to disarm the Saddam Hussein regime. The U.S. looks forward to a new Iraqi government that reaffirms its NPT commitments and brings into force an Additional Protocol. The U.S. will continue to work with the international community with respect to Iraq.

6. Ensuring compliance with NPT and IAEA obligations is also the crux of U.S. concern about Iran's nuclear program. Until a public disclosure forced Iran to admit its activities, Iran undertook to secretly build indigenous nuclear fuel cycle facilities, while refusing to accept an obligation to declare such facilities to the IAEA at an early date. After Iran belatedly allowed the IAEA to visit these sites, IAEA Director General ElBaradei reported to the IAEA Board of Governors in March that there are outstanding "questions" and "actions" that the IAEA must pursue in Iran. We strongly support a thorough IABA investigation of all questions about Iran's claim to be fully "transparent" and compliant with its NPT safeguards obligations and are waiting to hear soon the results of the IAEA's efforts. Any Iranian attempt to pursue a nuclear weapons capability would represent an unacceptable security threat to all of us and a fundamental challenge to the NPT and to prospects for a region free of all forms of weapons of mass destruction. Improving the prospects for such a zone requires that Iran change its behavior and take all necessary steps to remove the serious doubts now growing about its nuclear ambitions.

7. The U.S. is also concerned about other NPT parties in the Middle East region whose statements or activities seem to belie their NPT commitments. We urge all NPT parties to avoid nuclear cooperation with such states and to join the U.S. in underscoring the absolute importance of abiding by Treaty obligations.

8 . Other U.S. actions to promote compliance with the NPT in the Middle East and elsewhere include supporting the strengthening of IAEA safeguards, the negotiation and entry into force of safeguards strengthening Additional Protocols, and the adoption of NPT safeguards agreements. We are pleased to note some progress over the past year. Kuwait signed an Additional Protocol and the United Arab Emirates signed an NPT safeguards agreement. The U.S. commends these actions and urges others in the region that have not done so to take these steps as soon as possible.

III. Universality of the NPT and other efforts to strengthen non-proliferation treaties and regimes

9. The U.S. continues to encourage the creation of a regional environment that allows for broader acceptance by all Middle East states of nonproliferation and disarmament norms and international standards. Key to these norms is universal adherence to the NPT. U.S. law and policy continue to prohibit the supply of significant nuclear items to non-nuclear-weapons-states, as defined in the NPT, that do not accept IAEA safeguards on all their nuclear activities. We also strongly promote other nonproliferation goals including:

- adoption of IAEA full-scope safeguards agreements;
- adoption and full implementation of IAEA Additional Protocols;
- adherence to Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) guidelines;
- unilateral adherence to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and Australia Group guidelines;
- subscription to the International Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (ICOC)
- adherence to the Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC);
- adherence to the Biological Weapon Convention (BWC) and support for effective BWC implementation procedures; and
- support for a verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

10. In addition, the U.S. continues to urge supplier states, both bilaterally and in international fora, to refrain from exporting any WMD, missiles or related materials, equipment and technologies, as well as destabilizing advanced conventional weapons to countries in the Middle East, especially those that support terrorism.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report on the Middle East submitted under paragraph 16, subparagraph 7 of the chapter of the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference devoted to article VII, on measures taken by France to promote the achievement of a zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by France

1. On 30 April 2003, at a press conference on the Middle East, Mr. Dominique de Villepin, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, made the following statement on the subject of the Middle East:

"Where non-proliferation is concerned, we reject the status quo.

"The multilateral non-proliferation regime is intended to apply to the entire region. It must be accompanied by efforts to devise a new regional security framework based on confidence-building and non-aggression measures. The project for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, presented by President Mubarak and based on Security Council resolution 687, offers a solid foundation in this regard.

"We must move forward simultaneously in several directions:

"First, we must consider how to carry out tough inspections, under United Nations auspices.

"Second, we must secure new commitments from the countries of the region:

"To sign the Chemical Weapons Convention;

"To subscribe to the code of conduct against missile proliferation;

"To sign the IAEA additional protocol known as 93+2.

"Third, we must offer technical and financial assistance from the international community to the countries in the region which undertake to eliminate their weapons of mass destruction completely and verifiably.

"Fourth, we must make the granting of economic benefits to countries whose intentions are in doubt subject to commitments in the non-proliferation field.

"We suggest that new lines of thinking should be pursued on the occasion of the Security Council meeting on non-proliferation which has been proposed by the French President.

"Today, it is clear that there is a need to embark on a proactive strategy, to transform challenges into opportunities. France, guided by its values, its principles, its convictions, seeks to move forward together with all its partners in response to the urgent needs of the entire region."

2. France reiterates its support for the objectives of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995.

3. It calls for the implementation of this resolution by all the States concerned, so as to secure progress towards a lasting peace in the Middle East and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

4. France has taken every opportunity, at the bilateral and multilateral level, to emphasize the importance of the following steps:

- The establishment of a dialogue among all the States of the region in order to restore peace and stability in the Middle East in a lasting manner;

- Respect for the nuclear non-proliferation commitments entered into by all the States parties to the NPT;

- Peaceful disarmament of the States which are violating their non-proliferation obligations, under the authority of the United Nations Security Council;

- A halt to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the region;

- Accession by all States to the relevant international instruments, in particular the NPT, the CTBT, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention, and endorsement by all of the Hague code against missile proliferation;

- Action by all States which have undertaken to do so to adopt comprehensive safeguards and to place all nuclear facilities in the region under IAEA safeguards;

- Adoption and implementation of an additional IAEA protocol by all States in the region;
- Elimination of existing stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missile programmes involving proliferation;
- Strengthening of national measures to monitor exports of goods and technologies which can be used in the development of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems;
- Prevention of the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems by terrorists;
- Endorsement by all the States in the region of the G-8 principles adopted in Kananaskis;
- Identification and securing of all dangerous sources of radiation in the region.

5. France will continue to work towards these objectives in all relevant forums, with all States and partners concerned.

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NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/44

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

8 May2003

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Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone in the Middle East

Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

In Accordance with the paragraph 16 on Regional Issues, sub paragraph 7 on the steps to promote the achievement of a NWFZ in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran reports the following:

1. Iran first initiated the idea of the establishment of a NWFZ as an important disarmament measure in the region of the Middle East in 1974, followed by the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. Since 1980, the General Assembly of the United Nations has annually adopted, by consensus, a resolution on this issue. Continuous adoption of this resolution at the General Assembly is the manifestation of the global support for the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Middle East through realization of a NWFZ in the region

2. As a State Party to the NPT, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to its international undertakings and believes that this international instrument is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. Universal adherence of this Treaty, in particular in the region of the Middle East, would effectively ensure the establishment of a NWFZ in the region. At present, Israel is the only non-party to the NPT in the region. Despite the repeated calls by the international community demonstrated in the Resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the NPT 1995 Review and Extension Conference, related resolutions of the General Assembly, IAEA and OIC, Israel has neither acceded to the NPT, nor placed its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. Israel has not even declared its intention to accede to the Treaty. Israel's clandestine nuclear activities would seriously threaten both regional peace and security and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

3. The NPT 2000 Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of the Resolution on the Middle East (1995). Due to the significant provisions of this resolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other states in the region truly expect that this resolution should be swiftly implemented, especially by its co-sponsors, i.e. the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland as depositories of the NPT.

4. Unconditional adherence of Israel to the NPT and concluding the full-scope safeguard Agreement with the IAEA would, undoubtedly, lead to the early realization of the NWFZ in the Middle East. Neglecting the commitment voluntarily undertaken by this important resolution can only embolden Israel to continue to remain as a source of threat and instability in the Middle East by flouting the wish of the international community and remaining outside of the fold of the NPT and full-scope safeguard regime. In this context, we believe that national reports that do not address negative implications of Israel's intransigence to join NPT, like the one by Australia contained in NPT/CONF.2005/PCII/12 are not as effective as they ought to be in accordance with the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

5. In implementing its obligations under the NPT and specifically Article II and III of the Treaty, all nuclear facilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are devoted to peaceful purposes and are under the full-scope safeguards of the IAEA. Furthermore to contribute to the realization of a world free from weapons of mass destruction particularly in the Middle East, Iran has also joined the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

6. The Islamic Republic of Iran in its bilateral and multilateral disarmament dialogues with some nuclear weapons states and key players in the European Union has always urged their active contributions towards the establishment of a NWFZ in the region of the Middle East.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East within the framework of the strengthened NPT review process

Report submitted by Syria

In 1968, Syria became one of the first States in the Middle East region to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It took this step because it was convinced that the possession of these weapons of destruction by any State in the Middle East would pose a threat to the region and be viewed as a major cause for concern, not only by the peoples of the region, but by the entire world.

Syria also signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has consistently complied with all its international obligations thereunder. Every year since it signed this international agreement in 1992, Syria has opened its nuclear facilities for annual international inspection, because it is convinced, as are all Arab States that are all Parties to the NPT, of the need to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

It is this same conviction which motivated Syria to submit an initiative, in the first half of April 2003, to the United Nations Security Council, calling for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region. The initiative was supported by all Arab States. In it, Syria declared before the entire international community that it was willing to work alongside its Arab brothers and all States throughout the world to help turn the Middle East region into a zone free of all nuclear, chemical, and biological, weapons of mass destruction.

Syria has long been at the forefront of repeated calls, within the framework of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. It has striven tirelessly and energetically for the realization of that goal. It also works intensively to secure the adoption, at the annual regular sessions of the IAEA General Conference, of the resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, which calls upon all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and appropriate steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The resolution furthermore invites the countries concerned to adhere to international non-proliferation regimes, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as a means of complementing participation in a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East (GC(46)/RES/16, annex).

However, "Israel" has not responded to these calls. It continues to insist on being the only country in the region to remain outside the international system, refusing to respond to any international calls issued by the United Nations, whether through the General Assembly or the Security Council. To this day, "Israel" is the only country in the region which still refuses to accede to the NPT, to sign a comprehensive safeguards agreement, or to open its nuclear facilities for IAEA inspection. Indeed, it disregards all international resolutions relating to this particular topic.

In 1986, Syria became the first country to request, in an explanatory memorandum dated 10 June 1986 (document GC(XXX)/778), that an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat" should be included on the agenda for the regular sessions of the IAEA General Conference. Its request was agreed to and the item remained on the agenda until 1992, when the President of the Conference issued a presidential statement proposing that it should be dropped in order to safeguard the peace process that was under way at the time. Since the cessation of the peace process, however, the General Conference has failed to adopt a resolution on the Israeli nuclear threat. It has been content with issuing a presidential statement that neither applies any pressure on "Israel", nor requires it to comply with any international demands. This is a matter of great concern to the region, because Israel's possession of nuclear weapons creates a huge imbalance of forces that threatens regional and international peace and security.

With regard to the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 NPT Review Conference, the 2000 NPT Review Conference succeeded in reaffirming that the resolution would remain in force until such time as its purposes and objectives had been achieved, and that it had been one of the main factors in the success of the 1995 conference. This is regarded as an important achievement of the Group of Arab States, which had participated actively in the proceedings at the time and had worked to present a clear and united position on the issue. Syria had also clearly expressed its views on this point at the time. It believes that the reasons for the adoption of the resolution remain just as valid today.

The purpose of the resolution was to secure the agreement of the majority of non-nuclear States parties to the adoption, without a vote, of a resolution providing for the indefinite extension of the NPT, on condition that the complaints of those same States, which could no longer be deferred, would be heard at a later stage. For this arrangement to work, the

non-nuclear States relied on the good faith of the nuclear States in honouring their commitments. So far, those commitments have been utterly ignored. Moreover, any attempt to examine the shortcomings of the Treaty with a view to remedying the failings of which States Parties complain has also been ignored. We should like to recall here that, at every meeting of the Preparatory Committee, the United States of America has shown its determination to break and go back on the deal. There is no justification for its conduct, other than the consecration of the principle of double standards that allows Israel to remain a non-Party to the NPT and to preserve its nuclear arsenal.

Syria believes that the mechanism relating to concerns about the prevailing situation in the region, which the Secretary-General of the United Nations has been asked to set up, in accordance with the terms of the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, should take account of the inflammatory situation prevailing in the region. Syria also reaffirms the need for this mechanism to bring international pressure to bear on Israel so that it accedes to the wishes of the international community, complies with United Nations resolutions and brings a halt both to its imperialist ambitions - exemplified by its continuing occupation of territory belonging to three Arab States, namely Syria, Lebanon and Palestine - and to the development of its nuclear arsenal. Syria should like, furthermore, to stress that this must be an international demand, not just an Arab or regional demand, since it represents a central element in ensuring the credibility and universality of the NPT and in giving effect to the principle of equity, which eschews the policy of double standards.

For as long as the Treaty has been in force, Syria and other Arab States have continued to demonstrate their good faith, relying on the good faith of the nuclear States too. However, the close ties between the United States of America and "Israel" have brought the region face to face with a situation in which international law is now being openly flouted. Thus, "Israel" has been helped, ever since its creation, to pursue its aggressive policies, culminating in its ongoing occupation of parts of Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian territory which jeopardizes the security and stability of the entire region.

Finally, Syria believes that, in order to ensure transparency, universality of the NPT must first be achieved. The international community should therefore bring pressure to bear on Israel, in a resolute, impartial and non-discriminatory manner, in order to induce it to comply with international obligations and resolutions and to accede to the NPT, as a key step towards the establishment in the Middle East region of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. This is an issue which cannot be resolved by half measures. The call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region cannot be confined to the Arab and regional level alone, but must be echoed in meaningful international resolutions.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Jordan

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has the honour to submit the following report which explains the steps Jordan has taken since the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, at which it submitted its report to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee, to achieve the following objectives:

1. To promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review Conference within the framework of an agreement providing for the indefinite extension of the Treaty, as well as of two other resolutions of the Review Conference.

2. To meet its obligations as laid down in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, which requests States parties, particularly the nuclear weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference, as well as the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

Report

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan should like to reaffirm once more that it does not possess any weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, and that it is fully committed to the abandonment and rejection of the nuclear option in the world, particularly in the Middle East region.

2. Jordan continues to take part, within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, in the sponsoring of a resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session in 2002, adopted two resolutions relating to the risks of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, namely resolution 57/55, and resolution 57/99, which calls upon Israel to accede to the NPT.

3. Jordan continues to take part in the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has adopted a resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East (GC(46)RES/16).

4. Jordan has contributed to the deliberations of the League of Arab States in the following ways:

- It pursues the dialogue on the promotion of the NPT and its goals, and sponsors numerous resolutions in this domain.

- It took part in the deliberations of the Committee concerned with the elaboration of a draft treaty aimed at turning the Middle East into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, which held its meetings in June 2002 and January 2003 respectively.

- It took part in the joint symposium of the League of Arab States and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) on the subject: "Establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East: the international non-proliferation regime and regional tests", which was held in Cairo on 29 and 30 January 2003.

5. Jordan is involved in other international forums, such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries, where it works to promote the application of the objectives of the NPT, particularly in the Middle East.

6. Jordan continues to pursue its efforts to establish a lasting, just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan should like to reiterate the importance of achieving the purposes of the NPT, namely universality, disarmament and peaceful cooperation. These aims have not yet been achieved in the Middle East, because of Israel's refusal to accede to the Treaty, it being the only State not to have done so.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan should also like to reaffirm once more the need to implement the terms of the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference and to stress the importance of ensuring that nuclear States submit reports on the efforts that they have made to realize the goals and objectives of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review Conference.

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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report by the United Kingdom on the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

1. The United Kingdom welcomes the new opportunity for the people of Iraq to determine their own future. We are confident that this future will not involve weapons of mass destruction. We support the independent validation of any finds of weapons of mass destruction, leading to their final removal from Iraq. One of the triggers for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region has therefore been removed. The new situation provides us with the catalyst to pursue a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, including the removal of weapons of mass destruction from the region.

2. The United Kingdom has consistently supported resolutions in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly calling for the establishment of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone. The United Kingdom also supports the First Committee resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. In this respect we continue to call upon Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and to conclude an associated full-scope Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency (AIEA). We have recently reiterated these messages to Israeli officials, most recently in Jerusalem in March.

3. The United Kingdom has also taken steps with other countries in the region to establish the conditions for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Together with our European Union partners, we have carried out extensive lobbying activity to secure adherence by States in the Middle East to key non-proliferation agreements. Since the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons we have lobbied States in the region on the question of signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and agreement of an IAEA Additional Protocol.

4. We also recognise the impact that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has on international efforts to create a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the region. The United Kingdom is committed to efforts to move the Middle East peace process forward. We are actively engaged in efforts to end the violence, build confidence and resume talks based on Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973) and 1397(2002) and the principle of "land for peace".

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

8 April 2004

Original: English

Third session
New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Canada

1. At the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Canada supported a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Canada also played a key role in the adoption of a resolution on the application of safeguards in the Middle East by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference last September. While Israel maintains a policy of nuclear ambiguity, it is widely assumed to have developed a significant nuclear weapons capability. Canada has stated that it is convinced that this program is not in the long-term interests of Israel, of regional stability and of global security. Canada has called upon Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

2. Canada has also called for full adherence and compliance with the Treaty by States parties in the region, and has urged those six States in the region that have not concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA to do so. Canada has appealed to all states in the region to further contribute to regional stability and security by concluding Additional Protocols to their respective safeguards agreements, thereby demonstrating greater openness and transparency. Canada fully supports efforts by the IAEA to convene, as soon as possible, a forum on the application of safeguards, in which countries from the Middle East and other interested parties could learn from the experience of other regions about comprehensive verification arrangements and other confidence building measures that could contribute to the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone.

3. While Canada recognizes that Iran has a right to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, a number of significant unresolved questions about the scope and extent of Iran's nuclear program remain. At successive meetings of the IAEA Board of Governors and following four reports issued by the Agency, Canada joined consensus on three strong resolutions addressing this important issue. Canada has encouraged Iran to ratify promptly the Additional Protocol to its safeguards agreement that it has signed. Canada has been actively supporting IAEA efforts to verify Iran's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and has raised its concerns bilaterally with Iran on numerous occasions.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

8 April 2004

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Report by the United Kingdom on the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

1. The United Kingdom applauds Libya's decision to rid itself of Weapons of Mass Destruction, including nuclear weapons, announced on 19 December 2003. We have worked in co-operation with the US to facilitate Libya's decision to acknowledge and renounce its WMD programme. At Libyan initiative, our experts have held, and continue to hold, detailed discussions about the Libyan programmes with their Libyan counterparts. We have facilitated Libyan engagement with the appropriate international bodies, the IAEA and the OPCW, and in co-operation with these agencies we have offered assistance with dismantlement of Libya's programme.

2. We welcome the new opportunity for the people of Iraq to determine their own future, including the handover of sovereignty to an interim Iraqi Government on 30 June 2004. We are confident that this future will not involve weapons of mass destruction. One of the catalysts for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region has therefore been removed. This provides a further encouragement for the pursuit of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, including the removal of weapons of mass destruction from the region.

3. In co-operation with France and Germany we have encouraged Iran to resolve international concerns about the purpose of its nuclear programme through active co-operation with the IAEA and through suspending its enrichment and reprocessing activities. In conjunction with the IAEA Board of Governors, we have secured Iranian agreement voluntarily to suspend development of its uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. Until Iran resolves international concerns about the purpose of its nuclear programme, pursuit of these activities serves only to increase international concern.

4. The United Kingdom has consistently supported resolutions in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly calling for the establishment of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone. The United Kingdom also supports the First Committee resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. In this respect we continue to call upon Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and to conclude an associated full-scope Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol with the IAEA. We have continued to press these messages to Israeli officials, most recently in London in November 2003.

5. The United Kingdom has also taken steps with other countries in the region to establish the conditions for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Together with our European Union partners, we have carried out extensive lobbying activity to secure adherence by States in the Middle East to key non-proliferation agreements. Since the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons we have lobbied States in the region on the question of signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and agreement of an IAEA Additional Protocol.

6. We also recognise the impact that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has on international efforts to create a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the region. The United Kingdom is committed to efforts to move the Middle East peace process forward. We fully support the implementation of the "Road Map", and call on both sides to fulfil their commitments under the plan. We are actively engaged in efforts to end the violence, build confidence and resume talks based on Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973) and 1397(2002) and the principle of "land for peace".

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

22 April 2004
English
Original: Chinese

Third session
New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

Steps taken by the People's Republic of China to facilitate the Middle East peace process and promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

Report submitted by China

China has been closely following the development of the Middle East situation. It has consistently attached great importance to the Middle East peace process and has actively supported efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, China would like to explain the steps it has taken to facilitate the peace process in the Middle East and promote the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons there.

1. Support for all multilateral efforts to promote the Middle East peace process

China is of the view that an early solution of the Middle East issue will not only be in the interests of the countries in the Middle East, but will also contribute to the peace and stability of the world. China therefore supports and actively participates in all international efforts that will help achieve peace and stability in that region.

China maintains that the Middle East issue should be resolved in a fair and reasonable manner through dialogue based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and on the principle of "land for peace", and that the peace, stability and development of the region should be speedily achieved.

China welcomes and supports the Arab Peace Initiative adopted at the 14th session of the League of Arab States Summit held in March 2002. China supports the Quartet performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and urges the Israeli and Palestinian sides to take effective measures and actively cooperate with the efforts of the various parties concerned to promote peace, so as to speedily implement this plan and achieve an early resolution of the Palestinian issue. In the view of China, the Syrian-Israeli and

Lebanese-Israeli peace negotiations are important elements of the Middle East peace process; an early start to such negotiations would aid in achieving genuine and comprehensive peace in the region.

2. Active commitment to promoting peace and facilitating negotiations through the channel of bilateral relations

China has established diplomatic relations with all the countries of the Middle East, has maintained good cooperation in various fields through bilateral contacts with countries in the region, and has actively promoted peace and facilitated negotiations there.

In its bilateral consultations and exchanges of visits with Palestine and Israel, China has consistently emphasized that peace negotiations are the only valid path to resolving conflicts. Meeting violence with violence can only deepen mutual hatreds. China appeals to the Palestinian and Israeli sides to exercise restraint and actively cooperate with the mediation efforts of the international community, so as to calm the conflict and return to the path of peace negotiations.

As the situation in the Middle East has evolved, Chinese leaders on several occasions have exchanged letters with the leaders of various countries in the Middle East to express the Chinese position. The Chinese Foreign Minister has, upon request or at his own initiative, telephoned the Israeli and Palestinian leaders or ministers of foreign affairs to elaborate on China's views of the Israeli-Palestinian situation, and urged the two sides to exercise restraint and prevent the conflict from escalating further so as to maintain stability in the region and create a favourable climate for an early resumption of peace negotiations.

3. Active participation of China's special envoy on the Middle East issue in international efforts for peace

In September 2002, in response to appeals from countries in the Middle East, especially the Arab countries, China appointed a special envoy on the Middle East issue. In November, the special envoy visited Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and Palestine and held consecutive meetings with special envoys for the Middle East from the "Quartet" (the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations) who were visiting the region. In May 2003, the Chinese special envoy visited Israel and Palestine, and visited Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Palestine and Israel in October 2003. During these visits, the special envoy set out China's position on promoting the Middle East peace process, and expressed China's support for and willingness to participate in all international efforts that will help the Middle East return to peace and stability, as well as China's willingness to participate actively in international meetings towards that end. The Chinese position was well received and taken seriously by all parties concerned. In December 2003, the special envoy attended an international meeting on the Geneva Initiative and expressed support for the efforts of all parties concerned to promote peace. The Chinese special envoy has consulted and maintained close contact with the Arab and Israeli sides and with other concerned parties in the international community.

4. Support for efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

China has already undertaken unconditionally not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear

weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones, and has consistently supported efforts by countries to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of voluntary consultations. In 1992, on the occasion of its accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), China issued a solemn call to all nuclear-weapon states "to undertake to support the proposition of establishing nuclear weapon-free zones, respect the status of such zones and undertake corresponding obligations".

China believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is conducive to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and strengthening the international non-proliferation regime. In regions where tension prevails, the dangers of nuclear proliferation are even greater. From the very beginning, China has therefore clearly expressed its support for the efforts of the Middle East countries to turn the region into a nuclear-weapon-free zone, because it believes such efforts can help alleviate the tense situation in the region and contribute to the resolution of the Middle East issue.

China has always supported the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East within the United Nations framework. Every year since 1974, the General Assembly has adopted a resolution sponsored by Egypt on establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Egyptian president Mubarak has also put forward a proposal to build a zone free of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in the Middle East, and has appealed to all countries in the region to make active efforts towards this goal and engage in serious negotiations on this matter. China has consistently adopted a favourable attitude towards the foregoing resolution and proposal, and also supported the decision on the Middle East issue adopted by the 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

China has also actively promoted, on a bilateral level, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. During high-level meetings with the leaders of all countries in the region, China has always spoken highly of efforts made by countries of the region to establish such a zone, and consistently stood by its clear position on supporting the establishment of such a zone.

In December 2003, Libya decided to abandon its WMD programmes, including its nuclear weapons programme. China has commented positively on this development, believing that this step by Libya is favourable for maintaining the non-proliferation regime, and conducive to promoting the peace and stability of the region. China has also joined the international community in supporting efforts to achieve an appropriate resolution of the Iranian nuclear question through negotiations within the framework provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). China is of the view that positive steps taken by Iran will promote the process of denuclearization in the Middle East. China believes that Israel's accession to the NPT and placement of all its nuclear facilities under IAEA comprehensive safeguards is essential for achieving the goal of accession to the NPT by all countries of the Middle East, as well as for strengthening the international non-proliferation regime.

Together with the international community, China is ready to continue making efforts and contributions towards the achievement of peace in the Middle East and the speedy establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the region.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Third session
New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Australia

Australia fully supports the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Australia has joined the consensus every year at the UN General Assembly in support of the resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East freely arrived at among states of the region.

In the context of Australia's support for universality of the NPT Australia calls on Israel, as for other states yet to join the Treaty, to accede to it as a non-nuclear weapon state.

The Additional Protocol on strengthened IAEA safeguards offers Middle East states an important confidence building opportunity. Australia welcomes conclusion of Additional Protocols by Iran and Libya and looks forward to their full implementation. At Iran's invitation an Australian expert recently visited Tehran to provide training on Additional Protocol implementation. Australia will continue to urge conclusion by Middle East states of the Additional Protocol without delay or pre-condition.

Australia has joined with other IAEA Board members in urging Iran to resolve the continuing international concerns about its nuclear program. Iran must urgently cooperate fully with the IAEA to resolve outstanding questions, as must states, entities and persons which have supplied Iran's nuclear program.

Australia welcomed Libya's historic decision in December 2003 to eliminate verifiably all materials, equipment and programs leading to the production of nuclear weapons. Libya's actions stand as a prominent example of the benefits available to States which embrace transparency, and commit to compliance with the highest nuclear non-proliferation standards.

While countries of the Middle East would need to take the initiative in developing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, membership of and adherence to existing treaties and instruments would be a step towards this aim. Australia contributes to the goal of such a zone through its efforts to achieve universal membership of the NPT, CTBT, BWC, CWC, and our active support for the Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC) against the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

Australia is active in efforts to achieve universal application of nuclear safeguards measures – in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

26 April 2004
English
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Third session
New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

Report of the Kingdom of Morocco on the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

I. Implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

1. The Kingdom of Morocco remains committed to general and complete disarmament and, in particular, nuclear disarmament. Since its accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1970, it has consistently worked in favour of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their non-proliferation. Morocco considers that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and a key instrument for preserving peace and security in the world. Accordingly, it has always supported initiatives aimed at strengthening the authority of the regime and promoting its universality.

2. In implementation of the Treaty, Morocco concluded a safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1975. It is at an advanced stage in discussions with the Agency with a view to signing to the Additional Protocol in the near future.

3. In the General Assembly, Morocco has always supported the adoption of resolutions to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

4. As a contracting party, the Kingdom of Morocco has consistently supported decisions aimed at strengthening the Treaty's review process.

5. The new international security situation, which came about after the events of 11 September 2001, underscored the vital importance of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the need to preserve its validity and credibility in order to face threats linked to nuclear terrorism and arms of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles. Morocco believes that the Non-Proliferation Treaty's multilateral regime must be strengthened in order to combat the illegal proliferation of nuclear facilities and materials and the risks of nuclear terrorism.

6. Morocco ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. It also notified the IAEA Director-General of its acceptance of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

7. Morocco underscores the crucial importance of respect by all States parties for the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the obligations under it.

8. Morocco, which supports a total nuclear-test ban, signed and ratified the Treaty on the Total Ban on Nuclear Tests. It deplores the fact that the Treaty, which was opened for signature on 24 September 1996, has still not entered into force. In this regard, it reiterates its appeal to all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty without delay. It stresses the importance of respecting the nuclear-test moratoriums and the holding of conferences to facilitate the Treaty's entry into force.

9. Morocco reaffirms the inalienable right of the States parties to the Treaty to develop research in and the production and use of the energy for peaceful purposes, particularly through international cooperation under IAEA control.

10. Morocco supports actions aimed at ending the deadlock in the work of the Conference on Disarmament and continues to support the opening of negotiations for the elaboration of the treaty on fissile material, a legal instrument on negative security assurances and also a convention on nuclear disarmament.

11. Morocco fully supports the positive conclusions of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and reaffirms the importance of their implementation by the States parties in a transparent and irreversible manner.

II. Implementation of the 1995 resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

1. The Kingdom of Morocco remains convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones helps strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. For this reason, it has always supported the establishment of such zones where they do not exist.

2. Morocco was one of the first countries to call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East because it considers that the existence of such a zone is not only a necessary measure to eliminate proliferation and insecurity in the region, but is also an international objective and a factor for the consolidation of peace and security in the world.

3. In the League of Arab States, Morocco has participated in the elaboration of a legal and technical mechanism relating to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

4. Within IAEA, Morocco is taking active steps to promote the implementation of the Agency's safeguards regime throughout the region of the Middle East because it believes that this is an essential international security measure.

5. Morocco encourages the conclusion by all States in the region of the Middle East, including Israel, of generalized safeguards agreements with IAEA, as an important step towards establishing a climate of trust among the States of the region

and a preliminary measure for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

6. Morocco has helped to promote confidence-building measures among the States that are parties to the conflict in the Middle East, particularly by participating in the activities of the Multilateral Working Group on Regional Security and Disarmament Questions in the Middle East.

7. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East requires that the only State in the region that is not yet a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty — Israel — accede to it and submit its nuclear installations to the IAEA safeguards regime. This concern was explicitly referred to in the decisions of the 1995 and 2000 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences.

8. Morocco stresses the need for all parties concerned to take, as a matter of urgency, specific measures to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly their intention to refrain, on the basis of reciprocity, from manufacturing, acquiring or possessing in any other way nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and not to authorize the stationing of nuclear weapons in their territory by any third party.

9. Morocco believes that appropriate security measures for nuclear installations should be put in place.

10. The Kingdom of Morocco is carrying out ongoing work at both the regional and international levels to encourage all States in the region to commit themselves to bringing about a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

11. The Kingdom of Morocco unceasingly reiterates its appeal to the nuclear Powers, particularly the depositaries of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and to the international community and international organizations to assume their respective responsibilities in bringing about a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

26 April 2004

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Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Japan

1. Lack of progress in the establishment of a weapons-of-mass- destruction-free zone in the Middle East poses a serious problem for the credibility of the NPT. Japan supported, and continues to fully support, the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which calls for the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems. In this regard, following the fifty seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, Japan once again joined, at the fifty eighth session, the consensus adoption of resolution 57/34 of 27 October 2003, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East."

2. The establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East will ultimately require the adherence by all states in the region to the NPT, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by all states in the region would also be a substantial practical step towards this end. Japan has been actively taking part in international efforts to encourage universal adherence to these multilateral legally binding instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As a part of such endeavors, on the occasion of the visit of Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel to Japan from 24 to 27 August 2003, Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, urged the Israeli Government to become a Party to the NPT, the BWC and the CWC as well as to ratify the CTBT as soon as possible. Japan also urged, at the ministerial level, Governments of Syria, Egypt, and Iran to join the WMD related treaties at the earliest date.

3. It is no less important that compliance with these legal instruments should be fully assured. Japan also considers it crucial that the future Government of Iraq adhere to all relevant non-proliferation agreements in order to prove its willingness to behave as a responsible member of the international community.

In this context, Japan stresses the necessity of strengthening the IAEA Safeguards system, which plays a vital role in underpinning the NPT. Japan strongly believes that the conclusion of the IAEA Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols by all states in the region is essential for the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone. As a concrete measure to this end, Japan held an Expert Meeting on the IAEA Additional Protocol with the Iranian Authorities on 26 August 2003, and Japan is willing to hold similar meetings with other states in the region.

4. The recent decision by Libya to eliminate all programs to develop weapons of mass destruction is a significant step forward in the realization of the establishment of the weapons of mass destruction free zone in the Middle East. Japan is ready to assist Libya's on-going efforts to comply with the international legal instruments and frameworks on disarmament and non-proliferation and, in March 2004, sent officials in charge to Libya to hold discussions on disarmament and non-proliferation. Japan and Libya are planning to hold a Consultation on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in the early future.

5. Japan is firmly committed to supporting the Middle East peace process, a key to achieving regional stability. Such stability is a vital factor in establishing conditions for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Japan will strengthen its efforts to work with Israelis and Palestinians, as well as other countries concerned, to resume peace negotiations between the two sides, providing assistance for the Palestinians' reform efforts and building confidence in the mid to long-term.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

28 April 2004
English
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Third session
New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

Report presented by the Syrian Arab Republic at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons with a view to the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Non-Proliferation Treaty

New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

The Syrian Arab Republic was one of the first States in the Middle East to sign, in 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It did so out of the conviction that the possession by any State in the Middle East of such devastating weapons would pose a threat to the region and be a source of great anxiety not only to the peoples of the region but to the countries of the entire world.

Syria has also signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It has committed itself and remains committed to all international requirements in that area and has submitted its facilities to yearly international inspections from its signing of that international agreement in 1992 to the present, owing to its conviction regarding the need to establish, in the Middle East, a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, and above all nuclear weapons. That conviction is shared by all Arab States, all of which have become parties to the NPT.

On the basis of that firm belief the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Security Council, in the latter half of April 2003, an initiative aimed at ridding the Middle East region of weapons of mass destruction that was supported by all the Arab States. Syria declared before the international community that it would participate with its Arab sister States and indeed all the countries of the world in transforming the Middle East region into a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, be they nuclear, chemical or biological.

Syria has long been a forerunner, whether in the United Nations or in the League of Arab States, in the appeal to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. It has striven tirelessly and effectively for the creation of such a zone. It has worked assiduously, through

the annual regular sessions of the IAEA General Conference, for the adoption of a resolution for the application of the Agency's safeguards in the Middle East, requesting all parties directly concerned to consider in earnest the adoption of suitable practical measures for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East. It has invited the countries concerned to accede to the international non-proliferation regimes, including the NPT, as a means of completing their contribution towards a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East (document GC(46)/16). Israel, however, has not responded to that invitation, but rather insists on continuing to be the sole country in the region to remain outside the international system, refusing to accede to any international call emanating from the United Nations, whether the General Assembly or the Security Council. It will be recalled that Israel is the only country in the region that has refused to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It has also refused to sign a comprehensive safeguards agreement and to submit all its nuclear activities to the IAEA international inspection system and in fact exhibits the utmost disdain for the relevant international resolutions

The Syrian Arab Republic was the first country, in 1986, to request IAEA to include in the agenda of the regular sessions of its General Conference an item entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat", based on an information note issued as document GC(XXX)/778, of 10 June 1986. The request was approved and the item remained on the agenda until 1992, at which time the President of the General Conference issued a presidential statement in which he explained that in order to maintain the peace process at that time, the item would be dropped. To date, however, even after the peace process came to a halt, the General Conference has consistently failed to adopt a resolution concerning the "Israeli nuclear threat", confining itself instead to the issuance of presidential statements that do not exert any pressure on Israel or make it comply with any international requirements. This is a matter of great concern in the region, owing to the enormous inequality in the balance of power stemming from Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and thus posing a threat to regional and international peace and security.

As for the resolution on the Middle East, adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the 2000 Review Conference succeeded in reaffirming that it would remain in force until its goals and objectives were achieved and that it was one of the main components of the success of the 1995 Conference. This is an important achievement of the Arab Group, which engaged in effective participation at the time and worked towards the development of a unified position on the matter. The Syrian Arab Republic, which clearly expressed its opinion on this point at the time, considers that the reasons that led to the adoption of the resolution are still valid today. Its purpose was to garner the support of most of the non-nuclear-weapon States parties for a resolution to extend the Treaty indefinitely without a vote, with the proviso that the complaints of those States should be examined subsequently — something that brooks no further delay. Those States relied on the good faith of the nuclear-weapon States in honouring their commitments, which were totally ignored thereafter. Even the study of the shortcomings of the Treaty, with a view to filling in the gaps about which States parties complained, has been ignored. Let us mention here that at every one of the Preparatory Committee's meetings the United States of America was intent on breaching and disavowing that covenant, with no other justification for its behaviour than to consecrate the

principle of double standards and to keep Israel out of the Treaty and preserve its nuclear arsenal.

Syria considers it essential that the mechanism relating to concerns over the current situation in the region, which the Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to prepare pursuant to the final document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, should reflect current events that are ablaze in the region. Syria reaffirms that it is essential for that mechanism to exert international pressure to compel Israel to accede to the wishes of the international community, implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and to put an end to its colonialist aspirations consisting in the continued occupation of land belonging to three Arab States, namely Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, and to the development of its nuclear arsenal. At the same time, Syria stresses the need for that demand to be international, not merely Arab or regional, as an essential factor in ensuring the credibility and globality of the NPT and in realizing the principle of a just balance by avoiding a policy of double standards.

Syria and the other Arab States have continued to evince good faith for a long time, i.e., since the first days of the Treaty, relying on the good faith of the nuclear-weapon States. However, the close ties between the United States of America and Israel have brought the region to the situation of open violation of international legitimacy that we now see before us. In this way Israel has been assisted since its inception in the pursuit of its policy of aggression, continuing to this day to occupy part of Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian territories and thereby threatening the peace and stability of the entire region.

Finally, Syria considers that in order to achieve the desired transparency, it is imperative first of all to make the NPT global through the exertion of pressure on Israel by the international community, in earnest and without partiality or discrimination, to abide by international commitments and resolutions and accede to the NPT as a major step towards making the Middle East region a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, for the matter cannot be resolved by half-solutions. The appeal for making the Middle East such a zone must not be made at the Arab or regional level only; it requires the adoption of serious international resolutions.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

29 April 2004

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Third session
New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

Report on steps taken to promote the achievement of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction, and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Sweden

In the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in the section entitled "Article VII and the security of non-nuclear-weapon States", paragraph 16 on "Regional Issues", subparagraph 7, it is stated that:

"The Conference requests all States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of such a zone (i.e. a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction, *our remark*) and the realisation of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East."

Sweden would hereby like to communicate the following information regarding the realisation of the goals and objectives of the Resolution.

1. Endorses aims and objectives of Middle East peace process and recognises that efforts in this regard, as well as other efforts, contribute to, inter alia, a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction.

Sweden supports negotiations for a just, enduring and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and the principles derived from successive agreements between the parties. Sweden is strongly committed to the need for a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. This goal could be promoted in several ways, for example, by making full use of the confidence-building measures that exist within the framework of the EU Mediterranean co-operation (the Barcelona Process) and by establishing mechanisms for transparent and reliable verification in order to destroy the weapons of mass destruction in the region.

2. Calls on the remaining State not party to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept IAEA safeguards

Sweden continues to emphasise the importance of universal accession and adherence to the NPT. We call upon Israel to sign and ratify the NPT and to place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

3. Notes the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded facilities and urges those countries that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities to accept full-scope IAEA safeguards.

Sweden remains concerned with the existence of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in the region. We urge all States in the Middle East that have not yet done so to conclude and bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements and Additional Protocols with the IAEA.

4. Reaffirms importance of the early realisation of universal adherence to the NPT, and calls upon all States in the Middle East that have not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the NPT as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards.

See answer under paragraph 2 and 3.

5. Calls upon all States in the Middle East to take practical steps in appropriate fora to make progress towards, inter alia, the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems, and to refrain from measures that preclude the achievement of this objective.

Sweden is strongly committed to the establishment of zones free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Sweden voted in favour of resolution 58/34 entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, which was adopted by the 58th United Nations General Assembly.

While welcoming Libya's decision to end its nuclear weapons programme and while acknowledging that Libya's decision could contribute to a process towards the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, Sweden is concerned with the fact that Libya has been in breach of its obligations under its safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

The signature of the Additional Protocol by Iran and its voluntary suspension of all enrichment-related activities is welcome step. However, a number of questions surrounding Iran's nuclear programme remain outstanding. Iran must continue to co-operate fully with the IAEA in order to resolve them. Regarding Iraq, at present, the IAEA is the sole organisation, with legal powers derived from the NPT and the United Nations Security Council resolutions, to verify Iraq's nuclear disarmament. Inspections still need to be completed in order to resolve remaining questions about Iraq's nuclear programme. In regard to other weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, UNMOVIC is the sole organisation, with legal powers derived from the United Nations Security Council resolutions, to verify Iraq's disarmament.

6. Call upon all States parties to the NPT, and in particular the nuclear-weapons States, to extend co-operation and support efforts towards the early establishment by regional parties of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

Sweden continues to support the establishment of regional nuclear weapon free zones.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Steps taken during the past year to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolutions on the Middle East

Report submitted by Egypt

General

Pursuant to the report submitted by Egypt to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (document NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/9), Egypt has the honor to submit this follow-up report, which sets forth the steps Egypt has taken during the past year to promote the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

I. Introduction

Since the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation on Nuclear Weapons, Egypt has worked continuously to realize the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

In this context, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East has remained an item of high priority on Egypt's diplomatic agenda, after nearly 30 years of efforts to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and of other weapons of mass destruction.

II. Egyptian efforts at the international level

As in past years, Egypt submitted a resolution (58/34) to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-eighth session on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. The resolution, which was adopted without a vote, "urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in

accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". The resolution furthermore "invites the nuclear-weapons States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone..."

Egypt, acting on behalf of the States of Members of the United Nations that are Members of the League of Arab States, also submitted a resolution (58/68) entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East", which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of States Members. The resolution "reaffirms the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East". The resolution calls upon Israel "to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons without further delay and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security".

Upon Egypt's initiative, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-sixth session once again adopted by consensus, a resolution (GC(47)/RES/13) entitled "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East". The resolution "affirms the urgent need for all States in the Middle East to forthwith accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an important confidence-building measure among all States in the region and as a step in enhancing peace and security in the context of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ)". The resolution also "calls upon all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and appropriate steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a mutually and effectively verifiable NWFZ in the region..." and upon all States "especially those with a special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to render all assistance to the Director-General by facilitating the implementation of this resolution".

The support of the international community for the three aforementioned resolutions is evidence of the international community's continuing concern over the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and the urgency surrounding this issue. Egypt regrets, however, that little has been done to translate this sense of urgency into concrete measures.

III. Egyptian efforts at the regional level

At the regional level, Egypt continued to play an active role within the framework of the League of Arab States on issues relating to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Thus, it has participated in the adoption of several resolutions on subjects that fall within the scope of the Treaty.

Egypt has also played a prominent role in the work of the technical committee charged with formulating a draft treaty on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapon of mass destruction. Two meetings of the Committee were held in Cairo in June 2003 and January 2004.

Egypt also reported in its submission to the Second Session of Preparatory Committee in 2003 that it had participated in a symposium held in Cairo in February 2003 that was jointly organized by the League of Arab States and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). The symposium was entitled "Building a Zone Free Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East: Global Non-Proliferation Regimes and Regional Experiences".

IV. Egyptian effort at the national level

Egypt's strong commitment to the objective of ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was reaffirmed at the national level in an address given by President Hosni Mubarak to a joint session of the Egyptian Parliament on 16 November 2002, in which he said: "We continue to call – insistently – for the same standards to be applied to Israel as are applied to Iraq so that it may abandon all its capabilities in the field of weapons of mass destruction as one of the main elements for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and that will also strengthen international efforts to prevent the proliferation of such weapons, in the view of the threat they pose to all mankind".

Also at the national level, and within the context of its comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, Egypt continued to receive IAEA inspection teams throughout the past year. All the inspections showed that Egypt is complying fully with its commitments under the safeguards agreement with the Agency.

V. Conclusion

During the past year, Egypt continued to explore every avenue that could lead to concrete progress in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East. It believes that others – especially those in the Middle East region – should make an equally strong commitment. In the case of Israel, this commitment has not been forthcoming.

Egypt believes that if the credibility and cohesiveness of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime is to be maintained, the international community must show a greater commitment to the objective of ridding the Middle East of the threat of nuclear weapons, in keeping with its own resolutions and decisions.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East

Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

In Accordance with the paragraph 16 on Regional Issues, sub paragraph 7 on the steps to promote the achievement of a NWFZ in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran reports the following:

1. Iran first initiated the idea of the establishment of a NWFZ as an important disarmament measure in the region of the Middle East in 1974, followed by the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. Since 1980, the General Assembly of the United Nations has annually adopted, by consensus, a resolution on this issue. Continuous adoption of this resolution at the General Assembly is the manifestation of the global support for the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Middle East through realization of a NWFZ in the region.

2. As a State Party to the NPT, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to its international undertakings and believes that this international instrument is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. Universal adherence of this Treaty, in particular in the region of the Middle East, would effectively ensure the establishment of a NWFZ in the region. At present, Israel is the only non-party to the NPT in the region. Despite the repeated calls by the international community demonstrated in the Resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the NPT 1995 Review and Extension Conference, related resolutions of the General Assembly as well as of the IAEA and OIC, Israel, confident of the political and military support of the United States, has neither acceded to the NPT, nor placed its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. Israel has not even declared its intention to accede to the Treaty. Israel's clandestine nuclear activities, with the support of the United States, seriously threaten both regional peace and security and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

3. The NPT 2000 Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of the Resolution on the Middle East (1995). Due to the significant provisions of this resolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other states in the region truly expect that this resolution should be swiftly implemented, especially by its co-sponsors, i.e. the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland as depositories of the NPT.

4. Unconditional adherence of Israel to the NPT and concluding the full-scope safeguard Agreement with the IAEA would, undoubtedly, lead to the early realization of the NWFZ in the Middle East. Neglecting the commitment voluntarily undertaken by this important resolution can only embolden Israel to continue to remain as a source of threat and instability in the Middle East by flouting the wish of the international community and remaining outside of the fold of the NPT and full-scope safeguard regime. In this context, we believe that national reports that do not address negative implications of Israel's intransigence to join NPT are not as effective as they ought to be in accordance with the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

5. In implementing its obligations under the NPT and specifically Article II and III of the Treaty, all nuclear facilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are devoted to peaceful purposes and are under the full-scope safeguards of the IAEA. Furthermore to contribute to the realization of a world free from weapons of mass destruction particularly in the Middle East, Iran has signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and also joined the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

6. The Islamic Republic of Iran in its bilateral and multilateral disarmament dialogues with some Nuclear Weapons States and members of the European Union, including in the joint statement of 21 October 2003 by Iran and the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, has always urged their active contributions towards the establishment of a NWFZ in the region of the Middle East.

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the 2005 Review Conference should establish a subsidiary body to Main Committee II to consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

4 May 2004
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New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

Report on the Middle East — pursuant to paragraph 16 (7) of the section on Article VII in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference — concerning the steps taken by France to promote the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

France reaffirms its support for the objectives of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

It calls for the implementation of that resolution by all the States concerned in order to progress towards a lasting peace in the Middle East and the creation in the region of a zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Hence the following statement, made by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs at a news conference on the Middle East, on 30 April 2003:

> "The multilateral non-proliferation regime should apply to the whole region. It must be backed up by the definition of a new regional security framework based on confidence-building and non-aggression measures. The proposal for an area free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, presented by President Mubarak and based on United Nations Security Council resolution 687 (1991), provides a solid basis in this respect."

France has seized every opportunity at the bilateral and multilateral levels to stress the importance of the following measures:

- Establishment of a dialogue among all States in the region to restore lasting peace and stability in the Middle East;
- Compliance with the nuclear non-proliferation commitments made by all the States parties to the NPT;
- Cessation of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the region;
- Accession by all States to the relevant multilateral instruments, notably the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, and adherence by all States to the Hague Code of Conduct (ICOC);

- Adoption of comprehensive safeguards by all States which have committed themselves to doing so, and placing of all nuclear facilities in the region under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards;
- Adoption and implementation by all States in the region of an IAEA Additional Protocol;
- Elimination of existing stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and of proliferating ballistic programmes;
- Strengthening of national measures to control exports of goods and technologies that may be used to develop weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems;
- Prevention of the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems;
- Adherence by all regional States to the G8 principles adopted at Kananaskis;
- Identification and securing of all hazardous radiation sources in the region.

France will continue to work, in all the relevant forums and with all the States and partners concerned, towards the achievement of the objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, particularly in the light of the present crisis in the region.

As it recalled in the General Debate, the European Union supports the objective of universality of the NPT. It recalls that, as far as the Middle East is concerned, this applies to Israel.

Through the process of dialogue between European countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran, France has encouraged actions aimed at restoring confidence, thus preserving the objectives of the 1995 resolution. It welcomes the signing and implementation by Iran of an Additional Protocol and encourages full cooperation with IAEA, as well as a rapid ratification of that Additional Protocol.

It also welcomes the progress made in the case of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in particular the following steps taken by that country: the dismantling of military nuclear programme components; corrective action conducted in cooperation with IAEA to ensure full compliance with the NPT and the comprehensive safeguards agreement; the signing and implementation of an Additional Protocol; the ratification of the CTBT; the accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention; and the effective elimination of existing chemical weapons stockpiles and of ballistic programmes with a range exceeding 300 km.

France encourages Iraq to make commitments reflecting its willingness to comply with the 1995 resolution, once it has recovered its sovereignty.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as on the 13 practical steps of the 2000 final document

Report submitted by Belgium

Regarding the reporting on the implementation of Article VI of the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and of paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on the 'Principles and Objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament', Belgium refers to its report (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/37) submitted to the previous Preparatory Committee (28 April – 9 May 2003). The elements contained in this report remain valid.

Following its ratification in 2003, the Additional Protocol has entered into force in Belgium in 2004.

Belgium seizes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to regular reporting in the framework of the Treaty.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

5 May 2004

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Document submitted by the United States

The United States remains committed to the goal of the 1995 NPT Review Conference Middle East Resolution to promote a zone that is free of weapons of mass destruction. To achieve this goal, the U.S. has focused on three priorities: 1) Supporting efforts to end violence and promote political negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians; 2) Ensuring that states are in compliance with their NPT obligations; and 3) Encouraging all states in the region to join the NPT and adhere to other international nonproliferation treaties and regimes.

1. Support for Middle East Peace Efforts

Achievement of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East remains a key U.S. foreign policy goal. All NPT parties support the goal of a region free from weapons of mass destruction. It will not happen without the achievement of a political settlement that provides safe and secure borders for the parties involved. NPT parties have recognized that efforts toward the goal of universal adherence to the NPT should include the improvement of regional security in the Middle East. The United States, European Union, United Nations and the Russia Federation, referred to collectively as the Quartet, worked together to develop the Road Map to realize President Bush's vision of two states -- Israel and Palestine -- living side by side in peace and security. The United States remains committed to the Road Map, the two-state vision, and negotiated settlement.

2. Ensuring Compliance with NPT Obligations

The Middle East poses a significant challenge to the nuclear nonproliferation regime. During the 2003 meeting of the Preparatory Committee, the United States expressed strong concern regarding non-compliance with the Treaty. There is little hope of establishing an agreement to create a regional zone free of weapons of mass destruction if we cannot ensure that nations of that region implement and uphold existing agreements to which they are parties. Ensuring compliance is our highest NPT priority. All NPT parties need to act with resolve in response to non-compliance issues. It is clear

from recent events in the Middle East that NPT parties need to be vigilant against those who would abuse their rights under the Treaty to pursue "peaceful" nuclear programs to hide their real pursuits. Some have claimed allegiance to the NPT while acquiring sensitive nuclear technologies, maintaining nuclear weapon ambitions, and pursuing clandestine nuclear capabilities.

Non-compliance issues have been addressed in Iraq, where a dictatorship that violated the most basic rights of its people and its solemn nonproliferation commitments is gone and where the Iraq Survey Group continues its efforts to find and understand Iraq's WMD and prohibited missile programs. In the Transitional Administrative Law signed on March 8, the Iraqi Governing Council reaffirmed the commitment of the Iraqi people to Iraq's nonproliferation obligations and treaties.

Iran's nuclear program is at the forefront of Middle East compliance concerns. Public disclosures in 2002 of several clandestine Iranian nuclear facilities helped launch a rigorous, ongoing IAEA investigation into Iran's noncompliance with its safeguards obligations. IAEA Director General ElBaradei has issued four reports over the past year to the Board of Governors regarding Iran's covert nuclear activities. These reports confirm, in striking detail, what is now publicly known about Iran's 18-year history of clandestine nuclear activity. This activity includes undeclared uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing activities, pursuit of advanced P-2 centrifuge designs, experiments with uranium metal and polonium - both important nuclear weapons components - and willful and systematic efforts to hide these activities from the world. There is no doubt that for at least 18 years, Iran has been in serious violation of its NPT obligations.

The IAEA's investigation and verification work in Iran continues in an effort to address many unresolved issues. We anticipate another report from DG ElBaradei before the next Board meeting in June to provide further information on Iran's nuclear activities and to verify whether Iran is meeting its pledge to suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activity. The continued effort by Iran to pursue a nuclear weapons capability represents an unacceptable security threat to the world community, a fundamental challenge to the NPT, and a major roadblock to prospects for a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. Iran should abandon its policy of deception and take all necessary steps to permanently and verifiably abandon its nuclear weapons-related efforts.

On December 19, Libya pledged to eliminate its nuclear weapons program, declare all of its nuclear activities to the IAEA, and allow immediate inspections and monitoring to verify these actions. The United States and the United Kigdom have been working closely with the IAEA to help Libya fulfill its commitments. Libya's cooperation thus far has been excellent and virtually all declared equipment directly associated with Libya's nuclear weapons program has been removed from Libya – including nuclear weapons design and fabrication documents, advanced P-1 and P-2 centrifuges and components, and a large quantity of equipment associated with the centrifuge program. Highly enriched uranium fuel has been removed from the Libyan nuclear reactor at Tajura and transported to Russia as part of an international effort now underway to convert the reactor to less proliferation-sensitive low enriched uranium fuel. The joint U.S./UK efforts have been undertaken in close

coordination with the IAEA, which has been present on the ground in Libya to observe U.S./UK removals, to inspect certain materials, and to place some specific items under seal.

Libya was found in noncompliance with its safeguards agreements by the IAEA Board of Governors on March 10, and this fact was reported to the United Nations Security Council. Because of the dramatic steps Libya has been taking to address these violations, however, the Board reported them to the Council for information purposes only, in the expectation that this progress will continue. The Security Council expressed its appreciation for Libya's decision in its April 22 Presidential Statement. As President Bush has made clear, Libya's renunciation of WMD is a crucial turning point along the path toward rejoining the international community. The United States is very pleased with Libya's success to date in fulfilling its December 2003 commitments, and believes that the "Libyan model" of WMD dismantlement is rapidly becoming a compelling international benchmark for other proliferators to emulate, and a signal victory for the NPT regime as a whole.

3. Universality of the NPT and Other Efforts to Strengthen Nonproliferation Treaties and Regimes

The United States continues to promote a regional environment that encourages broader acceptance by all Middle East states of international nonproliferation and disarmament norms. Promoting universal adherence to the NPT is crucial to this effort. Under Article IX of Treaty, current non-NPT parties may accede to the NPT only as non-nuclear-weapon states. U.S. law and policy continue to prohibit the supply of significant nuclear assistance to non-nuclear weapon states that do not accept IAEA safeguards on all of their nuclear activities. Current non-NPT parties do not meet this requirement and thus are ineligible to obtain significant nuclear supply from the United States. We also strongly promote other nonproliferation goals including:

- ratification and implementation of IAEA full-scope safeguards agreements;
- entry into force and full implementation of IAEA Additional Protocols;
- accession to the Chemical Weapon Convention;
- accession to the Biological Weapon Convention and support for effective BWC implementation procedures; and
- adherence to Nuclear Supplier Group guidelines, Missile Technology Control Regime and Australia Group and Wassenaar Agreement guidelines; and
- subscription to the International Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

In addition, the United States continues to urge supplier states, both bilaterally and in international fora, to refrain from exporting any equipment and technology related to WMD and their delivery systems to countries in the Middle East, especially those that support terrorism. The United States again joined the international community last fall in adopting without a vote an UNGA resolution supporting the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East. Clearly, the regional

political situation would not currently permit the negotiation of such a treaty, but it is a measure of the U.S. commitment to a Middle East free of WMD that we support this resolution.

In an important speech on February 11, President Bush made a number of proposals designed to strengthen barriers against proliferation. Several of these initiatives have direct relevance to strengthening the global nonproliferation regime including the NPT. If adopted, they would measurably reduce the risk of WMD proliferation in the Middle East and elsewhere. Collective action of this type can assist in reducing access to WMD-related materials and in disrupting the purveyors of destruction. All civilized nations must understand the importance of cooperation in dealing with these grave challenges to our security. A strong commitment to nonproliferation by all nations of the Middle East, along with the resolve to tackle the complex political issues that divide them, is the only formula that can ultimately remove the specter of WMD from the region.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report on measures to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Tunisia

In accordance with the provisions of the final document of the sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held in 2000 (NPT/CONF.2000/28) requesting all States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapons States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of such a nuclear-weapons-free zone and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the Government of Tunisia has the honour to transmit the following information:

Tunisia has always manifested its commitment to the principles of disarmament in general and nuclear disarmament in particular. It considers that nuclear-weapons-free zones play an important role in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and bringing about the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Reflecting that stance:

- Tunisia acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 26 February 1970.
- Tunisia signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 24 February 1989 and ratified it on 12 February 1990. Negotiations concerning the signing of an additional protocol to the agreement are in progress.
- It signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996. The procedures for ratification are in progress.

- It signed the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) and in that regard welcomes the fact that the Antarctic Treaty and the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Bangkok, along with the Pelindaba Treaty, are helping to free the Southern Hemisphere and adjacent areas from the presence of nuclear weapons. In that regard, it also welcomes the steps taken towards the conclusion of new treaties creating nuclear-weapons-free zones.
- Tunisia is one of the sponsors of the resolution submitted every year to the General Assembly by Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group of States on the risks of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.
- Every year in the General Assembly it supports the resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.
- At the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, Tunisia played an active role in the Working Group on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, which adopted a report by consensus encouraging, among things, the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

In view of the importance of stability in the region of the Middle East for international peace and security, Tunisia remains concerned about the lack of progress in establishing a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East and in implementing the provisions of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, which was an integral part of the decision on the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Although all other countries in the region, without exception, are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Israel, the possessor of nuclear weapons, is the only country that refuses to accede to the Treaty and to place all its nuclear facilities unconditionally under full-scope IAEA safeguards. The position taken by Israel is an obstacle to disarmament efforts in general and to the establishment of lasting peace in the region and is reflected in the excessive militarization pursued by Israel, which also possesses other weapons of mass destruction.

In this regard, it is the responsibility of all States parties to the Treaty and especially the nuclear powers to fulfil their commitments to realize the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the provisions of the final document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

11 May 2004
English
Original: French

Third session
New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

Report of the Government of Algeria on measures it has taken to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and to achieve the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

1. In compliance with the provisions of the Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in 2000, which requested all States Parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the achievement of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria has the honour to report as follows:

2. Algeria considers that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone is an effective contribution to the strengthening of regional peace and security and helps to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and to achieve the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

3. Given their proximity and the close ties between Africa and the Middle East, Algeria is deeply concerned at the lack of progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this highly sensitive region. It therefore believes that practical steps must be taken to implement the provisions of the 1995 resolutions on the Middle East, which was submitted by the three NPT depositary States and adopted by the Fifth Review Conference.

In this regard, Algeria recalls that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference reaffirms the importance of this resolution and considers that, pending the realization of its goals and objectives, the resolution remains valid.

4. Algeria also endorses the position articulated by the States Parties at the Sixth Review Conference, calling on Israel to accede to the NPT and to submit its nuclear installations to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to achieve the goal of universal adherence to the

Treaty in the Middle East region and to realize the legitimate aspiration for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

5. Algeria has chosen to promote research into the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Accordingly, it has acceded to the NPT and concluded in March 1996 a comprehensive safeguards agreement under which all its nuclear activities are subject to IAEA inspection in accordance with Article II of the Treaty. Algeria also ratified in July 2003 the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

6. Algeria's actions have always been aimed at promoting the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world. It has subscribed to the Declaration of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the Denuclearization of Africa and, on 11 February 1998, it became the third African State to have ratified the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). In that spirit, Algeria welcomed the creation of similar zones in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga) and South-East Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), which have considerably reduced the risk of nuclear proliferation and contributed to the strengthening of international peace and security. It also welcomes the efforts being made by the five States of Central Asia to conclude a treaty for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region.

7. As a member of the Group of Arab States, Algeria is a co-sponsor of the draft resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, submitted each year to the United Nations General Assembly, and supports the resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. It also participated actively in the working group on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones during the substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, held in April 1999.

2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

18 April 2005

Original: English

New York, 2-27 May 2005

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

In accordance with subparagraph 7 of paragraph 16 (regional issues) of the section of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference concerning article VII of the Treaty, which deals with steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran reports the following:

1. Iran first initiated the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone as an important disarmament measure in the region of the Middle East in 1974, followed by the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. Since 1980, the General Assembly of the United Nations has annually adopted, by consensus, a resolution on this issue. Continuous adoption of this resolution at the General Assembly is the manifestation of the global support for the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Middle East through the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

2. As a State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to its international undertakings and believes that this international instrument is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Universal adherence to this Treaty, in particular in the region of the Middle East, would effectively ensure the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. At present, Israel is the only non-party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the region. Despite repeated calls by the international community demonstrated in the Resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, related resolutions of the General Assembly as well as of the IAEA and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Israel, confident of the political and military support of the United States, has neither acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nor placed its unwarranted nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. Israel has not even declared its intention to accede to the Treaty. Israel's clandestine nuclear activities, with the support of the United States, seriously threaten both regional peace and security and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

3. The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the importance of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. Owing to the significant provisions of this resolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other States in the region truly expect that this resolution will be swiftly implemented, especially by its sponsors, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as depositories of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

4. Unconditional adherence by Israel to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and conclusion of a full-scope safeguard agreement with the IAEA would, undoubtedly, lead to the early realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Neglecting the commitments undertaken by States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with the adoption of this important resolution can only embolden Israel to continue to remain a source of threat and instability in the Middle East by flouting the wishes of the international community and remaining outside of the fold of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the full-scope safeguards regime. In this context, we believe that national reports that do not address the negative implications of Israel's intransigence to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, like the one presented by Australia in the third session of the Preparatory Committee (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.III/8), are not as effective as they ought to be with regard to the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

5. In implementing its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and specifically articles II and III of the Treaty, the Islamic Republic of Iran states that all its nuclear facilities are devoted to peaceful purposes and are under the full-scope safeguards of the IAEA. Furthermore, to contribute to the realization of a world free from weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the Middle East, Iran has signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Additional Protocol to its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. It has also ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, Biological Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Iran's high record of accession, among the Middle East countries, to the non-proliferation and disarmament instruments is not only a clear manifestation of our firm commitment to the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation, but is also evidence of our dedicated efforts towards the noble goal of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

6. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in its bilateral and multilateral disarmament dialogues with other States parties to the Treaty, in particular with some nuclear-weapon States and members of the European Union, as well as in the joint statement of 21 October 2003 issued by Iran and the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, has always urged their active contribution towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the firm belief that an agreed plan of action and timetable for the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, especially in the Middle East, should be a top priority on the agenda of all parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in particular nuclear-weapon States. There should be greater pressure on Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, promptly and without conditions, and to place all of its nuclear facilities under the IAEA full-scope

safeguards to pave the way for the long-sought goal of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

8. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the opinion that, pending the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, no country of the region should develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing, on their territories or on territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices, and they should refrain from action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other international resolutions and documents relating to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

9. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Conferences to review the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have a significant role in the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Review Conference of 2005 should establish a subsidiary body under Main Committee II to consider this issue and make concrete recommendations on urgent and practical steps for the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, as well as the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference.

2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

21 April 2005

Original: English

New York, 2-27 May 2005

Steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Canada

1. At the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Canada supported a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Canada also voted in favour of the resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East". At the United Nations, Canada has called for full adherence and compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by States parties in the region, and has urged the four[1] States in the region that have not signed or ratified comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to do so as soon as possible. Canada actively supported the adoption of a resolution on the application of safeguards in the Middle East by the IAEA General Conference in September 2004. Canada has appealed to all States in the region to contribute further to regional stability and security by concluding Additional Protocols to their respective safeguards agreements, thereby demonstrating greater openness and transparency. Canada fully supports efforts by the IAEA to convene, as soon as possible, a forum on the application of safeguards, in which countries from the Middle East and other interested parties could learn from the experience of other regions about comprehensive verification arrangements and other confidence-building measures that could contribute to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

2. Canada shares the serious international concerns about the scope and nature of Iran's nuclear programme. While Canada recognizes that Iran has a right to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Iran has failed to provide any plausible justification for its efforts to acquire the full nuclear fuel cycle. In a speech to the Conference on Disarmament, delivered on 14 March 2005, Canada's Foreign Minister reaffirmed that Iran's extensive past undeclared nuclear activities, together with its efforts to acquire the full nuclear fuel cycle, have resulted in strong suspicions that Iran has nuclear weapons ambitions. He said that permanent cessation of Iran's uranium enrichment and other proliferation-sensitive activities is

[1] Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Oman (signed on 28 June 2001 but not in force).

the only acceptable objective guarantee of the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. On 22 February 2005, Canada's Prime Minister said to a summit of NATO leaders that Iran must be encouraged to end its nuclear weapons programme. He expressed Canada's hope that the challenge could be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy, but emphasized that the international community must be prepared to stand behind its words with stronger measures if necessary. Iran's extensive past undeclared nuclear activities, which raise important questions about Iran's commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, were clearly not in conformance with its safeguards obligations, a matter that Canada believes the IAEA should acknowledge and report to the Security Council as required by the Agency's statute. Canada has also encouraged Iran to ratify promptly the Additional Protocol and has actively supported IAEA safeguards activities in Iran.

3. Canada was deeply concerned by the revelation in late 2003 of Libya's nuclear weapon programme and other undeclared nuclear activities. Canada strongly supported the decision of the Libyan Government to end all nuclear weapons-related activities and the efforts of the IAEA to verify that important decision. That resoluteness to disarm in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner, together with Libya's commitment to accept enhanced inspections via the Additional Protocol and to respect fully all its disarmament obligations, were important steps reinforcing regional and international security.

4. When explaining its support for the resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East", Canada urged Israel, "in the crucial months leading up to the 2005 Review Conference, to take the necessary first steps to adhering to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State". This statement is in conformity with the Canadian Government's 1999 disarmament and non-proliferation policy statement, which called upon Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State, to separate its civilian and military fuel cycles and to place its civilian nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards. It also conforms with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which calls on all States to promote the universal adoption and full implementation of multilateral treaties whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.